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Why is hantavirus drawing global attention?

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ALARMING GAP

Study hints at falling Odonata numbers

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Claude Mythos: a double-edged sword

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Vijay to take reins today; T.N. set for coalition govt.

Governor appoints TVK chief, who secured support of 120 MLAs-elect, as CM-designate, directs him to seek vote of confidence in House by May 13; nine Ministers to take oath with Vijay today

B. Kolappan
K. Muralitharan
N. Sai Charan
CHENNAI

Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) president C. Joseph Vijay will be sworn in as the Chief Minister of a coalition government in Tamil Nadu on Sunday, putting an end to almost six decades of alternating rule by the State's two dominant Dravidian parties – Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK).

Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar on Saturday appointed Mr. Vijay Chief Minister-designate after he secured the support of 120 MLAs-elect in the 234-member House.

Mr. Vijay will take the oath at Nehru Stadium in Chennai at 10 a.m. on Sunday. Nine other Ministers, including some senior TVK leaders, will also be sworn in. Mr. Vijay will head the government with the Congress as a partner.

Stage set: Governor Arlekar hands over the letter of appointment as Tamil Nadu CM-designate to TVK chief Vijay on Saturday. PTI

The Governor has also directed Mr. Vijay to seek a vote of confidence in the Assembly on or before May 13. The political uncertainty that prevailed over the last few days ended on Saturday evening, when the Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) and the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) extended their support to the TVK, taking the strength of its backers to 120. Later, Mr. Vijay called on the Governor at Lok Bhavan in Chennai, and handed over letters of support from the Congress, Communist Party of India (CPI), Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI (M)], VCK, and IUML.

Though the Congress snapped ties with the DMK to forge a post-poll alliance with the TVK, the other parties said that while they were extending support to the TVK for government formation, they would continue to remain part of the DMK-led alliance.

TVK cadre celebrated the development by distributing sweets and bursting crackers at several places.

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PLEAS AGAINST GOVERNOR
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STORMING INTO POLITICS
» PAGE 15

New chapter: PM Narendra Modi with West Bengal CM Suvendu Adhikari after the oath-taking ceremony in Kolkata on Saturday. PTI

Suvendu sworn in as Bengal's first BJP CM

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Suvendu Adhikari was sworn in as the Chief Minister of West Bengal on Saturday.

At the ceremony held in Kolkata, Prime Minister Narendra Modi accompanied Mr. Adhikari to the stage, where Governor R.N. Ravi administered the oath of office and secrecy to West Bengal's first BJP Chief Minister.

Five other BJP leaders were sworn in as Ministers. Soon after swearing in, which coincided with the birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, Mr. Adhikari visited Jorasanko Thakurbari, Tagore's ancestral home, and paid floral tributes before formally beginning his duties. "My official work begins after paying tribute to *Kaviguru*," he said.

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NEARBY

Shah praises Yediyurappa's contribution

CHITRADURGA
Former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa's name deserves to be written in golden letters while narrating the history of the BJP in South India, said Union Home Minister Amit Shah. » PAGE 6

LPG crisis: Auto drivers seek hike in minimum fare

BENGALURU
Auto drivers' associations have sought an increase in minimum auto fare, citing the continuous rise in auto LPG prices following the ongoing crisis in West Asia. » PAGE 2

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Bitcoin scam: ED arrests Sriki, 2 others

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Stepping up the investigation following recent raids, officials of the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) on Saturday arrested prime accused in the bitcoin scam case, Srikrishna alias Sriki, along with two others in Bengaluru.

The ED arrested Sriki, Robin Khandeval and Sunish Hegde in connection with the alleged cryptocurrency scam. The trio was produced before a special ED court, and taken into custody for 10 days for further interrogation.

The central agency has been probing the alleged bitcoin scam for the past several years over accusations of illegal cryptocurrency transactions, hacking and financial irregularities.

As part of the ongoing investigation, ED officials had recently conducted searches at multiple locations linked to the accused and their associates.

The case had earlier sparked major political controversy in Karnataka, with allegations surrounding the handling of seized bitcoins and the possible involvement of influential persons.

On April 20, the agency carried out raids at 12 locations, including premises allegedly linked to Sriki, the sons of Shantinagar MLA N.A. Haris, Mohammed Haris Nalapad and Omar Farook Nalapad, and Mohammed Hakeeb Khan, the grandson of former Union Minister K. Rehman Khan.

The case is related to a 2017 hacking incident involving national and international websites, in which bitcoins were allegedly stolen by Sriki and his associates. Mohammed Haris and Omar Farook are allegedly suspected to be beneficiaries of the proceeds of crime. Investigators believe that bitcoins hacked from a Dubai-based crypto exchange were routed to the Nalapads.

Cong. huddle in Delhi fails to solve Kerala CM deadlock

Dhinesh Kallungal
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Congress's bid to name a Chief Minister for Kerala yielded no consensus on Saturday despite party president Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, and Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) chief Sunny Joseph holding over three hours of consultations with the three main contenders – party national general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal and senior leaders Ramesh Chennithala and V.D. Satheesan.

"An appropriate decision will be taken by the high command in due course," Deepa Dasmunsi, Congress's Kerala incharge, told the media after the meeting in the national capital.

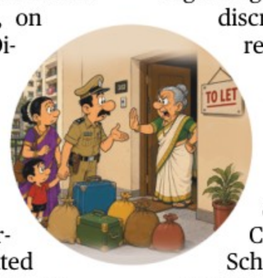
FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 8

Police to prioritise housing for personnel facing caste bias in finding rented houses

Imran Gowhar
BENGALURU

In an indication that the police who enforce laws against caste discrimination are themselves often victims of the menace, the head of the grievance cell in the force has issued a circular directing authorities to prioritise the allotment of police quarters to personnel who face caste discrimination in securing rented accommodation in Karnataka.

According to the circular issued by ADGP Devajyoti Ray (Grievances and Human Rights), on behalf of the Director-General and Inspector-General of Police (DGP & IGP), police housing across the State is currently allotted based on seniority. However, concerns were raised during a Government Assurance Committee meeting held at Vidhana Soudha on April 28 regarding caste-based discrimination in rental housing.



The committee noted that several police personnel belonging to Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) were allegedly being denied rental homes on caste grounds.

As a result, many personnel were forced to reside in distant areas, affecting their ability to report for duty on time.

In response, the DGP office has instructed all units that if such personnel submit representations stating they are unable to secure rental housing due to caste discrimination, their applications must be verified and examined on priority.

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GREATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY

PUBLIC NOTICE

CENSUS OF INDIA - 2027 FIRST PHASE

HOUSELISTING OPERATION

Public residing within the jurisdiction of the Greater Bengaluru Area are hereby informed that the first phase of Census of India –2027, Houselisting Operation is currently in progress across all City Corporations and will be completed by 15.05.2026.

Residents are requested to kindly cooperate with the Enumerators and Supervisors deputed for Census duty and furnish the required information accurately and in case if the enumeration of your house / apartment / establishment has been left out or if no Enumerator has visited your premises, you are requested to immediately contact the respective City Corporation Control Room through the numbers given below:

BENGALURU CITY CORPORATION	CONTROL ROOM CONTACT NUMBERS
Bengaluru Central City Corporation	080-22975803 / 9480685702
Bengaluru East City Corporation	080-28512300 / 080-28512301 / 9480685706
Bengaluru West City Corporation	080-23561692 / 080-23463366 / 9480685703
Bengaluru North City Corporation	080-22975936 / 080-28636671 / 9480685705
Bengaluru South City Corporation	080-26566362 / 080-22975703 / 9480685704

Your cooperation is essential for ensuring complete and accurate coverage

Every Household Counts

Chief Commissioner
Greater Bengaluru Authority, Bengaluru

A BG-BGE

Verdant meadows: A woman farmer picks collard greens (haakh) from a field in old city of Srinagar.

The emerald staple: Collard greens are considered an indispensable part of every household in Kashmir.

Kashmir's finest: Drew drops on a *haakh* field in Srinagar. The most coveted produce comes from the fertile, loamy soils found in the interior areas of the summer capital.

A band apart: Kashmiri *haakh* is characterised by its thinner, more tender leaves and a pungent, earthy aroma.

A humble leaf that whispers home

A resilient food crop grown year-round across the Valley, the distinct Kashmiri collard green is more than just a vegetable, it is a cultural culinary experience that transcends social and economic boundaries

Imran Nissar
imran.nissar@thehindu.co.in

Collard greens (*haakh*) is the soul of every dining table in Kashmir.

It is not just a vegetable but a cultural culinary experience that transcends social and economic boundaries.

Kashmiri *haakh* is distinct from other collard varieties found across the globe, characterised by its thinner, more tender leaves and a pungent, earthy aroma that defines the Kashmiri kitchen.

Haakh is a resilient crop, grown year-round across the Valley. However, the most prized produce comes from the fertile, loamy soils of the Dal Lake and the floating gardens (*radh*) as well as several fields in the interiors of downtown Srinagar.

Haakh is an indispensable part of every kitchen garden both in Srinagar and all other districts of the Valley.

The edible leaves thrive in Kashmir's cool climate, and "frost-bitten" *haakh* in winter is considered a delicacy, as the cold lends the leaves a subtle sweetness. The trade of *haakh* is a sunrise ritual. Farmers transport bundles in *shikaras* (traditional wooden boats) to the floating vegetable markets on Dal Lake at dawn. From there, it travels to local market hubs. It is almost always sold in tied bunches, often with the roots intact to maintain freshness.

The Kashmiri philosophy of cooking *haakh* emphasises simplicity to preserve the vegetable's chlorophyll and natural bite. Unlike heavy meat dishes, *haakh* is usually prepared as a light, soupy stew. The process involves sautéing the leaves in smoking-hot mustard oil, which is non-negotiable for the authentic pungent flavour.

While *haakh* is commonly cooked without any addition, it is also prepared with smoked fish (*hogada*), dried cheese (*chaman*), or mutton.

Served alongside steaming mounds of Basmati or local white rice, *haakh* is the ultimate comfort food in the rich tapestry of *Wazwaan*-dominated Kashmiri cuisine.

A wellness bundle: A vendor packing collard greens for a customer in Srinagar. It is almost always sold in tied bunches, often with the roots intact to maintain freshness.

Auto drivers seek hike in minimum fare amid rising LPG prices

At present, the minimum auto fare in Bengaluru is ₹36, while passengers are charged ₹18 for every additional km

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

According to auto drivers, the situation has become increasingly difficult due to the shortage of auto LPG and the sudden spike in fuel prices over the past few weeks.

Auto drivers' associations in Bengaluru have urged the government to increase the minimum auto fare, citing the continuous rise in auto LPG prices following the ongoing crisis in West Asia.

The associations have submitted a petition to the Bengaluru Urban Deputy Commissioner demanding a revision of fares, stating that the sharp increase in fuel prices has severely affected the livelihood of drivers.

At present, the minimum auto fare in Bengaluru is ₹36, while passengers are charged ₹18 for every additional kilometre. However, the associations are now demanding that the minimum fare be increased to ₹50 and the subsequent fare to ₹25 per km.

According to auto drivers, the situation has become increasingly difficult due to the shortage of auto LPG and the sudden spike in fuel prices over the past few weeks. They said that the price of auto LPG, which was around ₹56 per litre before the escalation of the West Asia crisis, has now surged drastically. About a week ago, the price reportedly touched ₹90 per litre and has now reached nearly ₹95 per litre in Bengaluru.

Murali K., an auto driver from Rajajinagar, said that the rising fuel costs have made it difficult for drivers to earn a sustainable income. "We are already struggling with reduced business and long-waiting hours at LPG filling stations. The sharp increase in fuel prices has pushed many drivers into financial distress. Under these circumstances, seeking a fare revision has become unavoidable," he said.

Unavoidable

Indian Vehicle Drivers' Trade Union president Gandasi Sadananda Swamy said that the associations were aware that the demand for a fare hike could inconvenience commuters, but added that drivers had no other option. "We are very sorry to the people and regular commuters that we are seeking an increase in fares. Everyone knows the situation is very bad. Drivers are waiting in queues for hours to get LPG and at the same time, business has reduced. Fuel prices have skyrocketed and we do not have any alternative other than requesting the government for a hike in the minimum fare," he said. However, commuters have expressed mixed reactions to the demand. Ravindra Kumar, a daily commuter from Yeshwantpur, said that while the difficulties faced by auto drivers were genuine, the proposed hike to ₹50 appeared excessive.

"It is true that auto drivers are suffering because of the increase in LPG prices and other issues. A fare revision may be necessary, but ₹50 is too high. Maybe ₹40 or ₹45 would be more reasonable. If fuel prices come down in the future, the fares should also be reduced again. That would help both drivers and commuters," he said.

Another commuter, Swathi R. from Jayanagar, opposed the proposed hike and said auto travel had already become expensive for many passengers. "Even now, fares on ride-hailing apps are very high because of hidden charges and surge pricing. Most auto bookings are happening through these apps and commuters are already paying more than the regular fare. The government should not consider a fare hike at this stage," she said.

Multi-crore BDA site scam unearthed; FIR filed against tout and others

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A file photo of BDA head office in Bengaluru.

The Seshadripuram police have registered a case against a 44-year-old tout and others in connection with a multi-crore Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA) site scam involving an alleged collusion with some BDA officials.

The accused has been identified as H. Nagaraj, who allegedly posed as a BDA employee and fraudulently obtained BDA sites meant exclusively for Group 'C' and Group 'D' employees of the authority.

According to the complaint lodged by Hanumantharaya B., Deputy Superintendent of Police, BDA Vigilance Wing, large-scale irregularities were detected during an internal vigilance inquiry into allotments made under employee quota categories in various BDA layouts, including Laggere and M.K. 2nd Stage layouts.

Illegal allotment

The investigation reportedly revealed that several sites reserved for eligible BDA employees were illegally allotted to ineligible private individuals by falsely representing them as Group 'C' or Group 'D' staff members. The vigilance officials alleged that fake records and manipulated documents were used to facilitate the illegal allotments.

During the inquiry, the officials sought verification from the BDA Establishment (EST) section concerned regarding the employment status of accused H. Nagaraj. The department reportedly confirmed that Nagaraj was never an employee of the BDA.

Despite this, Nagaraj allegedly misrepresented himself as a BDA employee and, on June 18, 2009, fraudulently secured allotment of Site No. 04 measuring approximately 9.14 x 12.19 metres in M.K.S. 2nd Stage Layout through fabricated records and false declarations.

The complaint further stated that the fraud could not have been executed without the active support, internal assistance, and possible collusion of certain officials and staff members within the BDA. The officials suspected that multiple ineligible beneficiaries may have obtained sites using similar fraudulent methods over several years.

Huge financial loss

The alleged scam was said to have occurred from June 2009 and continued until recently, causing substantial financial loss to the BDA involving public property worth several crores of rupees. Based on the complaint, the police have registered an FIR against H. Nagaraj and others under Sections 34, 120B, 465, 419, 409, 420, and 468 of the Indian Penal Code for criminal conspiracy, cheating, impersonation, forgery, criminal breach of trust, and related offences.

The police said further investigation is under way to identify other beneficiaries, officials, and middlemen involved in the scam.

Meanwhile, BDA Chairman N.A. Haris, appreciating the police wing investigations, and warned brokers to be beware. In his statement on social media, Mr. Haris claimed that the days of land mafia operations inside the BDA are over.

According to him, the prime accused, Nagaraj, has been arrested. An FIR has also been filed against one Lakshminarayan for allegedly attempting to encroach upon nearly ₹160 crore worth of prime BDA land in Kothanur. He is absconding, and special teams are actively searching for him.

Five-year-old girl killed, sister injured in wall collapse

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A five-year-old girl was killed and her younger sister was injured after a compound wall and gate collapsed on them while they were playing in front of the house in Dwarakanagar on Friday.

The victim has been identified as Gousia, elder daughter of Imam and Ramiza. According to the police, the incident occurred around 7.30 p.m. when the two children were playing near the gate. Officials said the girls had climbed the gate and were standing on it when the three-feet pillar connecting the gate to the compound wall suddenly gave way, causing the entire structure to collapse on them.

Both children sustained severe head injuries and were rushed to a nearby hospital where Gousia later succumbed to her injuries. Her younger sister, Shakila, suffered injuries to her legs and is undergoing treatment. The police said her condition is stable.

The Chikkabanavara police have registered an Unnatural Death Report.

1 killed, 4 injured in fire accident

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 40-year-old hotel employee was charred to death and four of his colleagues sustained severe burn injuries in a fire accident at a hotel in Malagala, near Nagarabhavi, late on Friday.

The victim has been identified as Raj Kumar, a native of Madhya Pradesh, who had reportedly joined the work at the hotel just 15 days ago.

The injured, identified as Bhima, Shivanand, Satish and another worker, are undergoing treatment, and their condition is said to be critical. The fire also caused property damage worth lakhs of rupees.

Suspicion

The fire was suspected to have been triggered by a short circuit inside the hotel. It spread rapidly and soon engulfed the staff rooms located on the upper floor.

At the time of the incident, the five workers employed at the hotel were asleep in the staff quarters upstairs. As the fire broke out suddenly during the night, they were unable to escape and got trapped inside. The intensity of the flames quickly spread across the upper floor, making rescue operations difficult.

On receiving information, Fire and Emergency Sservices personnel rushed to the spot and carried out a rescue operation. All five workers were pulled out and shifted to hospital.

Among them Kumar, who had sustained severe burn injuries, succumbed during treatment, the police said.

Prison organises meditation camp for convicted inmates

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Inmates taking part in the 10-day Vipassana Dhyana meditation camp, at the Central Prison in Bengaluru.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Central Prison authorities in Bengaluru have organised a 10-day "Vipassana Dhyana" meditation camp for convicted inmates as part of a reformative and rehabilitation initiative aimed at promoting mental peace, discipline, and self-reflection among prisoners.

The programme has been organised under the guidance of senior prison authorities and the Department of Prisons and Correctional Services, Karnataka. The meditation camp commenced on Friday inside the Bengaluru Central Prison premises.

According to the prison officials, around 25 convicted prisoners with good conduct records have voluntarily enrolled in the camp. Participation was restricted to inmates who demonstrated disciplined behaviour inside the prison. Vipassana is a form of silent meditation focused on breathing techniques, self-awareness, and mental discipline.

During the 10-day programme, participating inmates will remain in isolation from regular prison activities and observe complete silence throughout the course. They will engage in meditation sessions, breathing exercises, and yoga practices under trained instructors.

The officials stated that the initiative aims to help inmates achieve emotional stability, reduce stress and aggression, and encourage positive behavioural transformation.

The Prison Department has been conducting various reform-oriented programmes, including yoga, counselling, vocational training, and meditation sessions, as part of efforts to facilitate the social reintegration of prisoners after completion of their sentences.

CLARIFICATION OF NAME

I, Shruti Venkatesh Malaka, Authorized Signatory of M/s New Premium Elevators Pvt., Ltd., R/at No.33, 1st Floor, 1st Cross, A G Rangaswamappa Road, Sri Ranganagar, BSK 3rd Stage, Bengaluru - 560085 do hereby solemnly state that **SHRUTI VENKATESH MALAKA** and **SHRUTI HARIJAN**, both names refers to one person i.e., me only. I further state that I will continue as **SHRUTI VENKATESH MALAKA** for all future purpose vide affidavit dated 30.03.2026 sworn to Notary.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Mr. Vikas Naiyar, son of Mr. Shri Rajesh Naiyar, aged about 42 years, residing at No. A04 Vaishnavi Orchids, Kasavanahalli, Bangalore 560035 have changed my minor daughter's name from **MANAVI to MANVI NAIYAR** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 29/05/2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary Public, Vanajakshi R, Bangalore

South East Central Railway
Annexure-B
TENDER NOTICE

1) Tender No. TRD-BSP-310-26-27-4 Date: 30/04/2026
Work : Route data mapping for current collection test Over Bilaspur division to be use in Olivir G system for current collection test as per RDSO Standard No-IS/ RDSOTI / 0001:2023 **dated 22.03.2023.**
Tender Value: ₹29,32,232.00/- **EMD :** ₹58,700.00/- **Submission of Tender :** up to 15:00 hrs. on 01/06/2026.

(2) Tender No. TRD-BSP-311-26-27-5 Date: 01/05/2026
Work : Provision of 25 kV high voltage insulated coating under overline structures (ROB/FOB) and Girder bridges with less vertical clearance from OHE for improvement of reliability and safety as per RDSO Guide lines over Bilaspur Division.
Tender Value: ₹2,00,05,125.00/- **EMD:** ₹4,00,100.00/- **Submission of Tender:** up to 15:00 hrs. on 02/06/2026.

For further details/ purchase of Tender document, eligibility criteria & the complete details for the above works, please contact Office of the Sr. DEE/TRD/SECR/Bilaspur or refer/download Tender document which is available on our website: **www.ireps.gov.in.**
Sr. Divi. Elect. Engineer (TRD)
S.E.C.Rly., Bilaspur
CPR/10/AM/98
South East Central Railway @secrail

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Procurement Tender Notice No. SWR/W/TS/USFD/2026/04/E
Dated: 06.05.2026
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Ultrasonic Testing of Rails & SEJs in Bengaluru Division. **(E-tender No. SWR-SBC-USFD-RAIL-202602)**	**Rs. 1,29,45,380/-**

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 04.06.2026**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Dy. Chief Engineer/ Track Procurement/HQ/Hubballi
PUB/101/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2026-27
Download the **RailOne** app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public are hereby notified that my Clients **1. Sri.Chikkanarasimaiah S/o. Late. Kariyappa, aged about 68 years, 2. Smt. Hombakka W/o. Chikkanarasimaiah, aged about 63 years, 3. Smt. Lakshmidevi D/o. Chikkanarasimaiah, aged about 48 years, 4. Sri. Nagaraju S/o. Chikkanarasimaiah, aged about 46 years, 5. Smt. Shashikala W/o. Nagaraju, aged about 42 years, 6. Kum. Punith S/o. Nagaraju, aged about 18 years, 7. Kumari. Lakshmi D/o. Nagaraju, aged about 16 years, minor represented by father/natural guardian Sri. Nagaraju, guardian Sri. Nagaraju, 8. Sri. Murthy S/o. Chikkanarasimaiah, aged about 44 years, 9. Smt. Mamatha W/o.Murthy, aged about 38 years, 10. Kum. Gurudev S/o.Murthy, aged about 17 years, minor represented by father/natural guardian Sri. Murthy, 11. Kumari. Monisha D/o. Murthy, aged about 15 years, minor represented by father/natural guardian Sri. Murthy, 12. Smt. Nagarathna D/o. Chikkanarasimaiah, aged about 42 years**, all are residents of Dyavalinganapalya Village, Hejjala Dakhle, Bidadi Hobli Ramanagara Taluk and District have cancelled/revoked the General Power of Attorney Executed in favour of Sri.Kariyappa S/o.Late.Chikkanna, Aged about 70 years, R/o: No.548 'Chandrodaya', 4th Main, West of Cord Road, 2nd Stage, Mahalakshmipuram, Bengaluru-560 086 in respect of the property mentioned below in the schedule, which was registered as document No.RMN-4-00109-2014-15, in Book No.4, registered in the office of Sub-Registrar - Ramanagara, dated: 21/06/2014 is hereby revoked/cancelled and terminated with immediate effect.

Hence, the said Sri. Kariyappa, S/o Late Chikkanna, has no manner of right, authority or interest to deal with the schedule property mentioned below.

Any transaction undertaken by him on and from 08/05/2026 in respect of the schedule property shall be treated as null, void and not binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Agricultural dry land measuring to an extent of 12 guntas in Sy. No.66/20 situated at Hejjala Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk & Ramanagara District (Now Bengaluru South District) and bounded on : **East by:** Land of Narasimhamurthy, **West by:** Land of Narasimaiah, **North by:** Land of Chikkarevanna & Dasappa, **South by:** Land of Chikkanarasimaiah.

A.R.T. ASSOCIATES, Advocate
No.102, 1st Floor, Amar Tower, 1st Cross, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru-560009.
Mob: 8050214208, 9738888893
Email: ebenezerthomas1@gmail.com
Date: 09.05.2026

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - I KARNATAKA
4th Floor, Telephone House, Raj Bhavan Road, Bengaluru - 560 001.

Form - 14
[See Regulations 33(2)
A/D, Dasti failing which by Publication

DEMAND NOTICE
NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961 as amended
RC / 374 / 2024 **04-02-2025**
PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK
Versus
Mr. A. SOLOMON SRI

In the Matter of
(CH-1) - PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK
No. 1007/49, Dr. Rajkumar Road, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560010. ... Applicant(S)
--- Versus ---
To,
(CD-1) Mr. A. Solomon S/o. Mr. Alphonso Raj,
No. 402, Sectra Raintree Apartment, Sakamma Layout,
St. Thomas Town, Lingarajapuram, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560084.
(CD-2) Mrs. Aruna Solomon W/o. A. Solomon
No. 402, Sectra Raintree Apartment, Sakamma Layout,
St. Thomas Town, Lingarajapuram, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560084. ... Defendants(S)

Sr. No.	CH Name	Int. Type / Mode	Int. Rate	Effective Date	Order Date	Amount	Interest as on Order Date	RC Amount	Remark
1.	Punjab National Bank	Compound Interest (Monthly)	9.25	27.08.2019	31.08.2023	4303484	0	4303484	Rate of interest as mentioned with penal interest 2% in respect of Housing Loan
2.	Punjab National Bank	Compound Interest (Monthly)	9.60	27.08.2019	31.08.2023	1289331	0	1289331	Rate of interest as mentioned with penal interest 2% in respect of Housing Loan (Overdraft)

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the **Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal, Bengaluru (DRT-1) in OA/1217/2020** an amount of **Rs. 5592815.00 (Rupees Fifty Five Lakhs Ninety Two Thousands Eight Hundred Fifteen Only)** along with cost, expenses and interest **w.e.f. 27-08-2019** till realization and costs of **Rs. 104005.00 (Rupees One Lakh Four Thousand Five Only)** has become due against you (Jointly and Severally / Fully / Limited)

Sr. No.	CD Name	Loan Type	Int. Type / Mode	Int. Rate	Effective Date	Order Date	Amount	Liability Type	Interest as on Order Date	RC Amount	Remark
1.	Mr. A Solomon	Home Loan	Compound Interest (Monthly)		27.08.2019	31.08.2023	5592815	Jointly and Severally	Interest as on Order Date	5592815	Liable to pay all loans detailed above with penal interest @ 2% p.a.
2.	Mrs. Aruna Solomon	Home Loan	Compound Interest (Monthly)		27.08.2019	31.08.2023	5592815	Jointly and Severally	Interest as on Order Date	5592815	Liable to pay all loans detailed above with penal interest @ 2% p.a.

2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts & Bankruptcy Act. 1993 and Rules there under.
3. You hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing.
4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on **30-04-2025 at 10.30 a.m.** for further proceedings.
5. In addition to the sum of aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay :
(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate / execution proceedings.
(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date **04-02-2025**

(P.H. Hemanth Kumar, IRS)
Recovery Officer - II

Hawking haakh: A vendor carries collard greens on a bicycle in Srinagar early in the morning.

Food for soul: The Kashmiri philosophy of cooking *haakh* emphasises simplicity to preserve the vegetable's colour and natural bite.

Trading hands: A vendor on the banks of Dal Lake. Farmers transport bundles in boats to the floating vegetable markets. From there, it travels to local market hubs.

A gentle green embrace: Unlike heavy meat dishes, *haakh* is usually prepared as a light, soupy stew. The edible leaves thrive in Kashmir's cool climate, and "frost-bitten" *haakh* is considered a delicacy.

Culinary maelstrom: A traditional chef (*waza*) preparing a vegetarian delicacy with *haakh* alongside non-vegetarian dishes. While collard greens are commonly cooked without any addition, they are also prepared with smoked fish (*hogada*), or mutton.

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Wealth sets you free

SIP #29
Learning a language that only you could understand.

SIP #41
Teaching you to walk only to keep running behind you.

SIP #56
Keeping your first drawing in a file called important documents.

SIP #72
Repeating the same instructions a hundred times before an exam.

SIP #88
Sitting outside the exam hall for hours in the summer.

SIP #119
Reserving the window seat for you, every single time.

SIP #147
Teaching you patience while trying not to lose hers.

SIP #159
Skipping her shows just to watch cartoons with you.

SIP #171
Teaching you that money shouldn't be kept in one place during picnics.

SIP #184
Prioritising your parent-teacher meeting over her client meetings.

SIP #213
Memorising the names of your friends, even the ones she hasn't met.

SIP #281
Learning new technology only to stay connected to you.

SIP #396
Teaching you that no wealth is bigger than those who love you.

SIP #412
Treating you like a child, even when you have one of yours.

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Here's to the one whose investments were never about returns, only about love.

Happy Mother's Day.

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LIFE MADE SIMPLE

THE HINDU

Matrimonial

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

COSMOPOLITAN

✔ **Suitable Alliance** for 28 years old Christian Bride, doing M.D., Tamil Parents, Hyderabad based (Father-retd. Sr. Executive, Private Service, Mother-Consultant Physician). Contact: WhatsApp - 79972 79991, Email: pcig6961@gmail.com

ACS MBA Working MNC Naidu Issueless Divorcee. 50 yrs, Seeks Groom CNB. Contact : 87788 73501

DIVORCEE

GORGEOUS, CREATIVE, 43, loyal, enterprising, affluent mompreneur. Seeks compatible, progressive partner. Caste no bar. Call/WA 9345 634 365.

HINDU DIVORCEE, 45 yrs, Very fair, No child, Seeks Qualified Groom. CNB. 9880151826

Hindu, 43 Years, Fair, MSc, Divorcee, Son c/o ex, seeks well-settled Groom below 52. Contact: 9791881860

DOCTOR

ELITE MD doctor girl /26 years / Vellalar /Fair /good looking seeks pg doctor/ well settled professionals– caste OBC WhatsApp 9500163683

FAIR, CULTURED, Good looking, Slim, Doctor girl 36/165 MD, Cardiac Anesthesiologist, Chennai based affluent Doctor family. Father Keralite Nair, Mother from TN. Looking for Doctor or Engineer groom from respectable family. 9840050381/ 9840985383

VANIYAR 31, MBBS/ MS, Midhunam, Thiruvadurai, Slim seeks MBBS/ MS Doctor Groom only. Contact: 9444259255

BRIDE GROOM WANTED
Tamil Muslim, well settled Industrialist family in Chennai.
Seeks Medico MD / MS Groom for their daughter doing MD (derm)
27yrs / 158cm / Fair
Contact:
Jabbarshahul64@gmail.com
98840 15371
96000 74295

DKV, 29 years, Female Radiologist, Divorced, Chennai, prefer, IAS/ Doctor/Officers Contact: 9047119910

Hindu Tamil Pillai, Girl MBBS (25/168) Fair, Chithrai-4 /Swathi-1 Thulam Rasi, seeks professional groom preferably Doctor. Ph. 9940533051.

ENGINEER

Wanted Groom-Muslim
1997, 5'6", beautiful, fair, Stanford Master's. Multi-talented/compassionate, Seeks well-qualified groom from Top 15 US schools or Top 15 schools in India.
(E) uzsh0214@gmail.com

GOVT / QUASI GOVT

28/ 163 cm/ SC Girl/ Government Job/ Affluent background/ Government Job Groom Preferred (080-69129271)

IAS / ALLIED SERVICES

Hindu, Tamil, gounder, 45 years, IPS, seeks Groom, Contact: Phone No: 9578822036.

KANNADA

BRIDEGROOM WANTED
FOR
KANNADA SHIVALI BRAHMIN
AGED 29, BORN - AUG '96.
WELL SETTLED. B.ARCH & MBA,
OWN HOUSE AT CHENNAI,
PRESENTLY WORKING
AT HYDERABAD **EARNING**
20LAKHS PER ANNUM
HEIGHT - 5.2.
~ SEEKS ~
SUITABLE BRIDEGROOM
FROM SAME CASTE
BRIDE FATHER
INDUSTRIALIST
BRIDE MOTHER
CENTRAL GOVT.
ASST COMMISSIONER
Respond with photo & Full details
sanjusanjana99@yahoo.com

MALAYALAM

✔ **HINDU EZHAVA girl, 26 yrs, 155 cm, Star Aswathy, London educated postgrad, working in reputed MNC. Native Thrissur, settled in Bangalore. Upper middle class family, parents working professionals. Seeking postgrad, Malayali Ezhava groom, MNC employed, from respectable, well settled family. Send photo, full biodata WhatsApp: 9742221346, 9880220199.**

NAIR DOCTOR Girl DM 32 yrs 161cm seeks Doctor/Professional. Contact 8089584220/9249920550

NRI

TAMIL MUDALIAR Girl, UAE MNC, 3.5 LPM, DOB: 26/12/94, Caste No Bar, Ct: 8667248379

TAMIL

✔ **TAMIL MUSLIM** Sharjah settled bride (UK Bachelor's Degree) 24/ 155/50 seek Engineers/Doctors/Accountant grooms in UAE/GCC. Please send Photo/Biodata to email: allianceuae2@gmail.com

✔ **MUSLIM GIRL, 39, engineer, slim, seeks educated, employed, unmarried Tamil Muslim groom. 9444235779**

TAMIL MUSLIM Girl, Singapore Citizen, 30 Yrs / 165 cm. Electrical Engg–NUS–Singapore, looking for suitable alliance. NRI or Overseas Educated Groom, Good Family, Willing to relocate to Singapore. Ct: 8056007500

CHRISTIAN PENTECOSTAL Tamil 28/ 154cm, 40K – MNC Seeking Suitable Bridegroom. CT: 95249 50931

PROTESTANT CHRISTIAN Nadar, 31 PG, Employed, fair, beautiful Girl, Chennai seeks fair, well settled, Religious Christian boy. Ct: 9840345969

CHRISTIAN, DIVORCED, M.tech, 30crores, Looking for 2nd marriage groom in Uk for our daughter from any subcaste,8138900553

CHRISTIAN, MBA, 31, Looking for Govt and doctor professional in Rc,Rc nadar,RC pillai,Rcsc groom in tamilnadu or pondicherry, 7356483111

CHRISTIAN NADAR Dec1996 165cm MBBS MD MRCS working in Apollo Hospital Chennai Seeks Doctor Groom MBBS MD MS. Contact: 9444421884. 8122682017

REDDY SPECIALIST Doctor (MS) 165 Cm, 1990 born. Own practice in Chennai, Seeking never married groom, Caste No Bar. Ct: 8925640111

NAIDU 38, MSc, 156cm Good looking 24Lac PA wellsettled Seeks suitable Groom CNB. Ct:8778514465/ 7200866346

Hindu SC Arundhadiyar 31 B.Sc (CS) 2nd marriage-have 5 yrs boy-expecting clean habits Kind Guys. 99942-84675.

GROOM WANTED Pillai,34yrs, BE, working in Central Govt, Well Educated Family Ph: 6385293227

BANGALORE–BASED HINDU bride, 47 yrs, height 167cm, MBA, working in US for past 21 yrs, Divorced (no kids). Caste no bar. Contact: 8220765305

ATTRACTIVE, SOFT 30, 168cm, well–read UK–based architect. Open to relocating. Cultured, affluent Tamil/Telugu family. Seeks compatible groom. Caste no bar. Call/WA 93456 34365

SEEKING GRADUATE/PROFESSIONAL for 44yrs unmarried Tamil SC Hindu Adi Dravida Female IT professional (20yrs exp) from Chennai holding Singapore PR. Contact +919790921761/+91 7200942776.

HINDU NADAR– Divorcee Unconsummated Marriage – 35 JPMC /IT, Bangalore Sr.Associate 40L PA Own House. Seeks blw 38yr. Call / WA : 9442126376

GROOM WANTED Rich Mudaliyar,27yrs, MBBS, MS, Elite business family in Chennai Ph: 6385293227

ARCOT VELALA Mudaliar girl 28/ Thiruvoonam/ fair/158/ M.Tech MSc (Digt Mktg –Singapore) highly paid seeks Professional groom of well educated & respected family Ct. 9841666230

HINDU, ADIDRAVIDAR, 29, Masters Law,Looking for govt staffs in higher designation for my daughter in same caste or equal caste, 8138009235

VANNAN, 27, BE, 30lakhs, Looking for same caste groom from 27-32 in tamil or telugu in overall tamilnadu for our daughter,8137001255

MUDALIAR, MS, Doctor, 40lakhs, Looking for 32-35 from Same or equal caste in MS,MD,ME for my daughter,8138900312

VANNIYA GOUNDER, MBBS, 24, Looking for Civil service groom (IAS,IFS,IRS) Grade1 in south india from any caste for my own daughter, 8137003550

PILLAI, 23, MSC, Looking for pillai and mudaliar groom in upper middle/rich and affluent in tamilnadu,8138900412

BRIDES WANTED

BUSINESS

30/ 178 cm/ Nadar/ Industrialist/ Affluent Family/ Looking Bride from similar background (080-69129276)

COMPUTER / INFO.TECH

IYER, 2ND Marriage, 44, B.E, Job in Chennai MNC Company, Wanting any suitable Vegetarian bride, 7418006626, vijaydeep1947@gmail.com

COSMOPOLITAN

SMART, SUCCESSFUL 29, 179cm, well–educated (IIT BTech/MTech) professional. Affluent S Indian business family. Seeks compatible bride. Language/caste no bar. Call/WA 9345634365

TAMIL

HINDU NADAR, – B.E, M.B.A – 30/ 158cm Software Engineer – Udangudi – Seeking Bridegroom Cell: 9626735777

BRIDEGROOM WANTED for a well–to–do hindu family's bride age 43, first marriage, degree–MSW, want from (FC, BC, MBC), working within India. CT: 9080359664.

BE/30/155 Pooradam Fair good looking rich Mudaliar with moral values seek suitable groom. 7975421774

✔ **ALLIANCE INVITED for Hindu SC girl, 26 yrs, 169 cm, LLM, 25LPA, Associate in Capital Markets at a top–tier law firm, Mumbai/Chennai. Looking for a well–settled, professionally qualified groom from same community. Ph: 9152236196**

Alliance invited from a well settled and educated family for a 37y old independent, career-oriented woman. Height: 160 cm, highly qualified, currently working as international teacher in Dubai. Legally divorced, no children, seeking mature & responsible groom. Telugu / Tamil pref. Divorcees welcome. Contact: 94451 20943 . Email: rajanisuganthi@gmail.com

GROOM WANTED SC (AD),34yrs, ME, well educated family background in Chennai Ph; 9962791888

GROOM WANTED Mudaliyar,26yrs, BE, Own Transports in Chennai, Affluent family Ph: 6385293227

DEVAR 28 170cm M arch Australia seeks well Qualified Grooms in Australia Devar only Geetham 9884858014

KAMMAVAR NAIDU 26 160cm BE Chennai seeks professionals India / Abroad Naidu Only Geetham 9884858014

LOOKING FOR a suitable Bridegroom for a vanniar girl, aged 28 yrs, B.Com B.L. Hons with ACS & employed in a big Corporate. Similar profile or other Professionals with good family background based in Chennai preferred ct: 9003199945 / 9003035547

✔ **VANNIA KULA Kshatriya MD 31y6m Affluent Good Looking Smart Working in Corporate Hospital seeks Well to do Groom MD/MS 9840471097**

VANNIYA KULA Kshatriyar, 26/5.2, BArch, Star–Karthigai, Rishaba Rasi, Working in Chennai. Seeks Suitable & Qualified Groom. Ph: 9840926156

DKV/SC, 32/ May 94, 167cm, Fair, BE (CS), Parents Hindu / CSI, Seeks Groom Dr./Er. / Abroad. Ct:8056143638

MUDALIAR 26/165, Fair, BE, MS, SWE, Apple,130000.USD.PA, Elite Family 50.CR, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

VANNIYAR, (27/164), LLM, Beautiful, Working in a Pvt Concern Chennai seeks suitable groom. Ct. 9940655572

Groom needed for female 24 yrs 165 cm, M.Tech Software Engg working in Bgl either CSI/Ag.. whatsapp bio data: 9566947447

RISHIBAM, KARTHIGAI 42/152 M.Com, B.Ed, Veg seeks Employed groom Caste No Bar, BC,MBC prefd Ct:8682080448

BRAHMIN-IYER, 28, MDS, Looking for a Professional groom in Maharashtra, Delhi, Hyderabad for our daughter, 8138900652

VANNIYAR, BRIDE 32 / 157CM / MEENAM, REVATHI, IT PROFESSIONAL, B.E, MBA, 9L PA, EXPECTING GOOD-LOOKING BRIDEGROOM FROM BC / MBC PREFERABLE.
CONTACT
9500122750

COSMOPOLITAN

US–RETURNED MS (USA), 33/6ft, Sr. Manager, MNC, Chennai; mutually divorced. Seeking educated, professional, open–minded, family–oriented bride (28–34); CNB/divorcee welcome. 98430–45585

Aryavysya, Caste No bar, 29 yrs, 178 cm, Software, 45 LPA, mild eye issue, Seeking simple Girl. Ph: 8555072557

DIVORCEE

48YRS. TOP mgmt. Pvt. Sector, Chennai. Good Salary, Viswakarma, Divorcee, No issues. CNB. Suitable bride. Ct : 95661 97522 / 73388 89725

REQUIRE CARING Girl without issues caste no bar for a Chennai based hindu boy 51 yrs divorcee without issues.Ct: 9841672014

TAMIL

Tamil Yadava Girl , MBA 24 yrs / 160cm, from an affluent family, fair & good Looking Thiruvathirai star
Seeks a Good Looking, well Educated and Settled Groom Age: 25 to 27 years
contact : 9884262668

GROOM WANTED
PILLAI 25, 163 CM, MBA
Lives in Coimbatore
UTHIRAM; KANNI
Looking for like mined match from Coimbatore only
98422 -71709

Bride Groom Wanted for DOCTOR
Bride, 34 yrs, 5'7", divorcee, doctor (MBBS,MD,DM), from an elite business family, Hindu Nadar, based in Tirunelveli,
seeks a suitable groom from an affluent family (caste no bar)
Kindly contact 9994851637/ 9790445335

Wanted SCAD Professional Groom for only daughter 34/168 ME PhD WA: 6381757167

HINDU ADI-DRAVIDA, 28,BCom, Employed well settled Fair 164cm Seeks groom Govt /Quasi Govt - 6380135480

HINDU SC/AD, 40/163cm fair, B.Tech (CSE), SWP, Moolam, Dhansu, never married, Chennai, seeks Professionally qualified, never married groom below 43yrs from India / Abroad. Caste No Bar. Call / WA: 8754566571

Hindu, SC(AD) Chennai 36yrs, MBA working in MNC, 14L PA, Seek suitable alliance.Caste No Bar. Ct: 9841243319

✔ **Hindu, SC(AD),** 39yrs/154cm, B.E, MBA, Mesham/Ashwini, MNC, seeks suitable Groom, Ph:9840688543

HINDU ADI-DRAVIDA Upper Middle Class, Fair, Slim, 32/174cm, MD.DM Govt, Risabam Chennai. Seeks Groom with Good Looking & Salary below 37years Caste no bar. Ph:9840728782

TELUGU

Balija Naidu 28yrs/172cm, M.Sc (C.S) Visakam 3rd Padam, Thulam Rasi, Fair, Seeks Professionally Qualified Groom.Ct: 9445229864/044-42875069

NAIDU 27/165, Fair, Beautiful, PG, Elite Business Family 200. Cr. Net Worth, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

వరుడు కావలెను
Hyderabad BC Caste 30Yrs. Height 5.10" B.Tech., Rich family అందమైన అమ్మాయికి, Rich Person Hyd. (or) Banglore. అబ్బాయి కావలెను Caste No Bar
ఓం నమోవెంకటేశాయ
Tirupati:7093722724

Affluent upper middle-class Balija Naidu family seeks a suitable alliance for their daughter, 31 years, 5 feet, wheatish, BE, MS, MBA, presently working in USA. Groom should be well-educated, professionally accomplished, and from a good family background. Ct: 9047010018 / 9787943250

URDU

AGE–35, BE Graduate Working, Divorce, Muslim Bride, Seeks A Groom in a Good Job. Ct: 9865130076

32/ 168 cm/ Divorced/ Muslim Bride/ Doctor/ Looking for a Professionally Qualified Groom (080-69072050)

DIVORCEE

SMART, SUCCESSFUL 38, 171cm, progressive US–based professional at global MNC. Seeks educated, compatible S Indian bride. Call/WA 93456 34365

61–YEAR–OLD RETIRED Engineer, divorcee, living a quiet and disciplined life, believes lifes best chapters can still begin now. Values mental peace, mutual respect, and simple camaraderie. Seeking a girl (divorcee/widow, preferably without children) to share meaningful conversations, walks, and a calm, stress–free life. Genuine responses only.Ct: Whatsapp 88387 44120.

DOCTOR

CHRISTIAN NADAR, Feb 1998, 178cm, MD, DM Nephrology, Seeks Doctor Bride. Contact: 9500085244

HINDU – SC – AD – 33, Fair – MBBS, Seeks Doctor Bride – Same Community, Ct:– 9444314459

HINDU YADAVA, 13.07.1995, 3:25 PM, 176 cm, seeks MBBS/MD bride. Contact: 9444674978 / 9942005782.

HINDU SC / AD, MD Pathology, Age : 31yrs., Star : Ashwini, seeks Doctor MD / MS Bride. Ct: 866 755 5837

HINDI

1985/175CM, 50 Lakhs PA, Never Married, Bangalore. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

MALAYALAM

PALAKKAD EZHUVA boy 30/158cm/Btech/ HCL/Bangalore/WFH/Shudha Jathakam. Seeks suitable bride Ph 9495136088

✔ **INTELLIGENT, SPIRITUALLY** INCLINED GROOM, Well–settled, Hindu, 38, alumnus of IIT Madras (BTech & MTech), Director in AI Company (San Francisco, Bangalore, Trivandrum). UAE Golden Visa Holder. 168 cm, fair, good–looking, from a reputed family. Legally divorced (brief marriage under 1 year). Looking for a Wise, Charming, Intelligent, Hindu Girl. Contact Mother : 8075491499. (Not by bureau)

NAIR ANIZHAM, 29yrs, BE, Data Science IIT–M, MNC IT Chennai Settled, 1.50 L/pm seeks alliance. 7338703789.

SUITABLE HINDU Malayalam Bride CNB for Coimbatore TN Settled I/C Groom (F) Vellalar Pillai (M) Nair 40/180 Chadhayam B.Tech MNC Bosch Projects, 30 LPA. CT: 99524 85996.

NRI

VELLALA PILLAI Boy 37/172, Chathayam, Fair, B.E S/W Eng.,Canada Origin: Trivandrum, seeks alliance. Caste no bar. 9994724482, 9994724483

PUNJABI

SEEKING ALLIANCE for Punjabi Boy, Chennai, 34 years, working as HR in UAE. Please Call : 98404 25490

Alliance for 32, 173 cm, MBA Cutsurd Jat Sikh, Mumbai Based Boy from Defence Background. Ct: 9426694529

TAMIL

CHENNAI MYLAPORE Hindu family seeks a bride for their son born in 1994 doing Construction Business. Caste No Bar. Contact : 98410 63528

TAMIL

HINDU NAIDU Gavara, 40yrs/178 cm, Aswini PG pvt,40000 pm first Marriage seeks unmarried Bride. Caste open for discussion. Ct: 8248869954

MUDALIYAR 44/176 cm 24 lakhs per annum, running own business seeks bride CNB. 9740098865 / 9444348233

DIVORCEE HINDU. 35yrs No issues, M.Tech, well settled Software Engineer, seeking bride with no issues. Caste no bar. 9841862535, 9941962421

BUSINESSMAN SETTLED Age 48. looking for a understanding companion or a life long relationship, interested persons specifically from TamilNadu or South India Ct 9344087191

MUKKULATHOR REMARRIAGE Rich 31 175cm BE Business Kochi Kerala seeks suitable Bride CNB Geetham 9884858014

SAIVAPILLAI 53 165cm MCA IT Engineer UK Seeks UK profiles / Willing to go UK CNB Geetham 9884858014

BRIDE WANTED Hindu Nadar 26yrs,B.Tech,SWE,1.5 lp/m,well educated family Ph: 9841329471,9380791999

VIGNESH MCA 37 Cluster Manager in Hinduja Finance. Seeks Sozhia Vellaler/ Mudhaliar Bride. Ct:97905 96388

HINDU NADAR, – B.E – 29/180cm Data Engineer – Good Salary – Chennai – Seeking Bride Cell: 9600227299

SAIVA PILLAI (CNB), 29, Pooradam, BE, MS(USA), SWE, MNC seeks USA based bride. Ct: 9444951621.

✔ **SEEKING GOODLOOKING** bride for manager in PSB, age 38, Rohini, Mudhalyar, caste: no bar. Contact : 9445311859

AGAMUDAIYAR 42 180cm MSc IT Consultant seeks Bride from OBC shunmugavalli@gmail.com Mob – 9445612997

MUDALIAR 29 BE,MBA 178cm smart 32Lacs PA, well settled family seeks Bride, CNB Ct.8778514465/ 7200866346

HINDU/OBC 38/179, B.Tech, Pvt. Service Sector 5.5Lpa. Seeks suitable Birde, Caste No Bar. Ct: 9944385814

NAIDU J. ARIVAZHAGAN BE–EEE, Ht 6ft. Age 29. Own Business. Monthly Income Rs.55000. Seeking Suitable Bride. Maduravoyal, Chennai 96005 81820

BRIDE WANTED Hindu Nadar,28yrs,CA, 2lakhs pm,well educated family Ph:9841329471 / 9380791999

THONDAIMANDALA MUDALIYAR boy 41 B.B.A.,D.M.E Annamalai University, Chidambaram,10Acres land owned. Seeks Vegetarian Mudaliyar or Vegetarian girl.Divorcee no kids,good family background will consider.Ct. 8668154951

HINDU NADAR 39yr MA, M.Phil, Own Busines in Chennai. Seeks Suitable Bride in Nellai/ Tuticorin 8637660391

IIM MBA boy 30yrs, 165cm, 40L/PA chennai based. Intercaste parents. Seeking PG Doctor/IIM/CA fair and slim brides.Whatsapp horoscope and photo to +91 7448804564.

CHRISTIAN NADAR, Doctor, Divorcee 37yrs/178cm, MBBS, Dip in Cardiology better earning lives in Nagercoil seeks qualified/ Divorced Bride. 9003983230

HIGHLY QUALIFIED Brahmin Iyer, in top management role, 62 years, Chennai based, Never Married, seeks alliance from Brahmin girls. Contact with details by email sakrishjun1929@gmail.com

TAMIL

VANNIAR GROOM 12.06.1982, B.E, M.B.A (Lon), Divorced, No issue. IT Chennai, 16.5 Lakhs/PA. Seeks Bride CNB (OC, BC, M.B.C Only) Contact: 9944928521 Vellore.

ALLIANCE INVITED for 34 / 5'6" medium B.E, employed in MNC company chennai non IT, from cultured Tamil family . Seeking suitable bride. Contact:-9840165095

BRIDE WANTED SC (AD),30yrs, BE, MBA,Well Educated Family in Chennai Ph:6385293227

BRIDE WANTED 28yrs,civil service, Well Educated Family background, Caste no bar Ph:6385293227

WELL Settled Tamil based Intercaste (SC+Brahmin) Dr Couple, looking for suitable Bride for their Son 32 Yrs (Ragu-Kethu) Dr MD Pathology KMCH, Cbe. Mob: 9842221324, 9894186469.

MBBS DR, Hindu, BC, 49, Divorced, Rich Family, Caste/Age no bar, seeks Good Bride. Ct 9952998820

MUDALIAR 28/183, MS, NW Engr, Cloudflare, USA,150000.USD.PA, Elite , 50.CR CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

MUDHALIYAR, CA,24L pa, Age–40, Never married, Kettai, Own House, 6 Acre land, Sub Caste ok. 7305460763

SEEKING EDUCATED Bride for: a 39y/ 171cm Hindu, Chartered Accountant – top Firm in Chennai.WA: 8220636792

NAIDU, PHD, Age –42, Never married, Pooradam, 12L / pa, Own House, Sub Caste ok. Ct: 8754756329

MUDALIYAR, KETTAI 40/165, M. Tech.,Ph.D., HOD, Pvt. Engg College, Pondy Seeks Bride 31 to 37yrs 9442557578

SC AD 28/B.E.,MS., Software Engr. 6Lakhs p.m./Only One Son Well Settled Family. Seeks Bride. Ph:7397674481

IYER / AVITTAM 1988 B.Com / MBA working in Chennai. Seeks Pure Veg working bride. Ct : 63740 43306.

PROFESSOR - Govt. College, 45 / Divorcee, Caste, Religion - No Bar. Ct:94426 95558

Seeking BRIDE for Bridegroom
Hindu, Kulalar/Udayaar, 44 yrs, 170 cms, M.Tech, IT professional, Caste open for discussion. First Marriage Only
CT: 93842 76066

Hindu Thuluvavellar, 37yrs/168cm, Govt Staff, Income of 1.5Lakhs/PM, Partially Blind, seeks Suitable Bride. Contact: 9941602214 / 9789769606

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Tamil Yadava 31yrs/180cm, BE(CSE) AWS 32lak/ PM, Astra Zeneca, Chennai, Well settled. Contact: 9790727404

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Email id: msm207229@gmail.com

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No Brokers allowed
Contact
jeyainfo100@gmail.com

Pillai 36/177 BE, MBA, SWE MNC, 21LPA, Chennai, seeks suitable Bride, not horoscope Any BC ok.9500147451

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THE HINDU

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Meenakshi Gajula Praveen alias GP Meenakshi W/O Late Praveen Kumar Gajula Shivashankarappa R/O FLAT NO 001, G/F, SVD Aravindham Apartment, Kattige Nahali, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560064 Have changed my name to Meenakshi for all future purposes.

I, GP Vaishnavi D/O Meenakshi R/O FLAT NO 001, G/F, SVD Aravindham Apartment, Kattige Nahali, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560064 Have changed my name to Vaishnavi for all future purposes.

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Infant dies in stray dog attack

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

A five-month-old baby died at the Bidar Institute of Medical Sciences on Saturday after suffering severe injuries in an alleged stray dog attack at Dubalgundi village in Humnabad taluk of Bidar district.

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, MAY. 10		
RISE	05:56	SET 18:36
RISE	00:50	SET 12:41
MONDAY, MAY. 11		
RISE	05:56	SET 18:37
RISE	01:30	SET 13:32
TUESDAY, MAY. 12		
RISE	05:55	SET 18:37
RISE	02:08	SET 14:22

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	15
Mysuru	35	22
Bengaluru	32	22

Bengaluru Today
33°C The weather will be warm. Night will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower at few places.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
34°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm. Night also will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower.

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THE HINDU
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Campus violence: APU suspends student

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Azim Premji University (APU) has suspended a student for two years and issued written warning to two others, following violent incidents on the campus on February 24 when members of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) vandalised the campus property and force-entered the premises protesting a student-led discussion on Kashmir.

"Azim Premji University conducted a thorough inquiry into the events of February 24, 2026. Following a careful review of the investigating committee's recommendations, the university has taken disciplinary action against three students found to be in serious violation of the university's code of conduct. One student has been suspended for two years, while the other two students have been issued written warnings," said a spokesperson of the university.

An e-mail sent to the suspended student from the Registrar's Office reportedly cited "persistent defiance of institutional processes and guidelines, misrepresenting facts, violating the university code of conduct and failure to follow the university's instructions for de-escalating a volatile situation during an extraordinary event on campus" as the reasons for the suspension. The suspended student can appeal to the Registrar within a week.

Students' protest

Following the suspension notice, more than 40 fellow students gathered in protest and demanded immediate revocation of the suspension.

The protesting students marched to the registrar's office, demanding to meet him. According to the students, the administrators insisted that they send e-mails and obtain prior permission before meeting the Registrar. and threatened them with disciplinary action for gathering outside the office.

While members of the Student Affairs Committee met the students outside the office, according to the students, the administrators insisted that they send e-mails and obtain prior permission before meeting the Registrar and threatened them with disciplinary action for gathering outside the office.

The Student Council sent a formal email to the Registrar raising concerns regarding "the lack of transparency in the disciplinary process and the disproportionate severity of the punishment imposed."

Students have also initiated a signature campaign in solidarity. Following the violence, a reading circle run by the students was charged with an FIR.

Cashew Mela to be held in Mangaluru

MANGALURU: Karnataka Legislative Assembly Speaker U.T. Khader on Saturday said cashew fair is an important programme to make people aware of the importance of the cashew crop that had been an important commercial crop in the coastal region. The Mela will be held on May 17 and 18 in Mangaluru.

More than one lakh take COMED-K test

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Around 1,10,787 candidates attended COMED-K UGET across India out of a total 1,30,620 candidates who had registered. In Karnataka, around 35,678 candidates attended the exam. In Bengaluru, 17,054 candidates attended.

The provisional answer keys will be released on May 13, and the final answer key will be released on May 20. Students can access their rank card on May 26.

ADVERTISMENT

Dr. M. Thimme Gowda, President of the Karnataka Pradesh Arya Idigara Sangha and **Chairman of Sri Sudha Co-operative Bank Ltd** along with his daughter **Sunitha Thimmegowda, Managing Trustee of Aditya Ram Foundation and Savitramma Thimmegowda Trust**, and son-in-law **Ashok Shankar, President of the All India Circus Federation**, **felicitated Her Royal Highness The Princess Aswathy Thirunal Gouri Lakshmi Bayi of the Travancore Royal Family** at the Taj West End, Bengaluru. The meeting also featured discussions on several social initiatives and collaborative efforts towards community welfare.

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(CORRIGENDUM)

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि **e-Tender Reference No. RCD/JAMSHEDPUR/752,Date-20.04.2026 (2nd Call)** जो पथ प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर अंतर्गत योजना मद से स्वीकृत है, अपरिहार्य कारणवश तत्काल रद्द किया जाता है। जो निम्नवत् है :–

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E - Tender Notice No. SA-SG-120-I-OT-02-2026,
Closing Date: 28.05.2026

For and on behalf of the President of India, The Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer / Southern Railway / Salem Division, Salem - 636 005 invites ONLINE tenders for the following works as per tender notice given in our e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in** The tenderer(s) / contractor(s) intending to apply for e-tender for WORKS in Salem Division, need to get enrolled in the e-tender portal **"www.ireps.gov.in"** and only online tenders will be accepted. Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) & Tender Document Cost (TDC), in respect of e-tendering, should be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. Fixed Deposit Receipt (FDR) will not be accepted as EMD for tenders invited on IREPS (e-tender portal).

Sl. No.	Tender Notice No. & Name of the Work				
1	Tender Notice No.: SA-SG-120-I-OT-02-2026, Closing Dated: 28.05.2026 Salem Division: Augmentation of Good Shed Lines (Rd.6 & 7 with CC unloading pavement at PLMD station and provision of Track Machine Siding at 7 stations (SLY, EL, PRV, PAS, SA, KPPR & UKL)				
Sl. No.	Approximate Cost of the Work ₹	Earnest Money Deposit ₹	Cost of tender form including GST	Eligibility criteria for similar single work previously	Period of Completion in months
1	**2,40,86,034.89**	**4,81,700.00**	**Nil**	**Applicable**	**12 Months**

Tender closing date and time: **28.05.2026 at 15.00 Hrs.**

Note: Details of approximate value of tender, tender form cost, EMD & location are given on the e-portal, **"www.ireps.gov.in"** For other details, terms and conditions, the tenderers are advised to refer to the Tender documents which are available at **"www.ireps.gov.in"** website

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Shah hails BSY's contribution to party's growth in South India

At 'BSY Abhimantosava' organised to honour Yediyurappa, Union Home Minister says veteran leader should continue to guide party in Karnataka

The Hindu Bureau
CHITRADURGA

Former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa's name deserves to be written in golden letters while narrating the history of the BJP in South India, said Union Home Minister Amit Shah, adding that the veteran BJP leader should continue to guide the party in the State.

He was speaking after inaugurating 'BSY Abhimantosava', an event organised to commemorate Mr. Yediyurappa's 50 years in public life in Chitradurga on Saturday.

Former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa being felicitated by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in the presence of other leaders and various seers in Chitradurga on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

From Kolkata

Mr. Shah, who travelled to Chitradurga after taking part in the oath-taking ceremony of the new Chief Minister of West Bengal in Kolkata, described Saturday as a significant day for the BJP. "We won the West Bengal elections with a thumping majority and a BJP Chief Minister has taken oath for the first time in West Bengal today. And this is the day we are celebrating 50 years of Mr. Yediyurappa's public life," he said.

Mr. Shah described Mr. Yediyurappa as a politician who built his own path in politics. Recalling that he campaigned in the State in three elections with Mr. Yediyurappa, Mr. Shah said he had noticed that the former Chief Minister would always keep a diary in which he would record the problems of people that he noticed during his travels.

Mr. Yediyurappa, accepting the felicitation, stated that he was thankful to people of the State for their love and support all these years. Being a common man from Shikaripur, he never dreamt of becoming the Chief Minister. Presenting the special Budget for agriculture and launching the Bhagyalakshmi scheme were the most satisfying decisions of his tenure, he said.

He maintained that the country required the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for another 10 years to realise the dream of building a strong India. He stated he would not take rest, but would travel across the State and work to strengthen the party.

BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra, praising the gathering of thousands of people from different parts of the State, stated that the huge response from the public conveyed that Mr. Yediyurappa was still a popular leader.

Seers of prominent mutts, former Chief Ministers D.V. Sadananda Gowda, Jagadish Shettar, Basavaraj Bommai, Union Ministers Pralhad Joshi, V. Somanna, Shobha Karandlaje, and scores of BJP leaders were present on the occasion.

Warm hugs: Union Home Minister Amit Shah greeting senior BJP leader B.S. Yediyurappa during the 'BSY Abhimanotsava' in Chitradurga on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Memorial for Madakari in Chitradurga

The Hindu Bureau
CHITRADURGA

Recalling the bravery and sacrifice of Madakari Nayaka, the ruler of Chitradurga, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that the Narendra Modi-led Centre will fulfil the promise of building a theme park in memory of Madakari Nayaka in Chitradurga. Addressing the gathering, Mr. Amit Shah said that during his campaign in Chitradurga ahead of the 2023 Assembly elections, he had promised the people of Chitradurga that if his party returned to power, a memorial of Madakari Nayaka would be built in Chitradurga. "Our party did not come to power. However, we will do it under the leadership of Mr. Modi," he stated.

Backward classes seers say they were 'insulted'

The Hindu Bureau
CHITRADURGA

While scores of seers attended the 'BSY Abhimanotsava', a group of seers of the Atihinduliga Mathadishara Mahasabha have alleged that those representing the most backward classes were "insulted" by the organisers.

Basavanagideva Swamy, the national president of the mahasabha, Pranavananda Swamy, State president, and a few others held a press conference to allege that they were invited to the event, but they not treated on par with others who were honoured on the main stage.

Basavanagideva Swamy of Chalavadi Peetha said: "At the venue, the police officers said that my name was not on the list of invitees to be allowed on the main dais. This is an insult to the community I represent".

Pranavanand Swamy said that the seers of most backward castes were seated in a corner, far from the main dais. "There was a glaring difference in treating the seers of dominant castes and the backward classes." he alleged.

Three years of govt.: Cong. to hold mega event on May 20

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To mark the completion of three years of the Congress government in Karnataka, the party has decided to hold a mega convention in Tumakuru on May 20.

The event, to be organised as a government function, is expected to feature the launch of several projects by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, along with the distribution of land title deeds to more than one lakh beneficiaries.

The Congress government assumed office on May 20, 2023.

Amid speculation over a possible leadership change, the convention is also being viewed as an opportunity for Mr. Siddaramaiah and his loyalists in the Cabinet to send a political message to the Congress high command regarding the Chief Minister's popularity among the masses.

The event comes at a time when a section of senior Congress MLAs is pushing for an early Cabinet reshuffle, while Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has been seeking elevation to the top post.

Congress president Mallikarjun Ksharge and the party's Karnataka in charge Randeep Singh Surjewala are expected to participate in the programme.

Speaking to reporters here, Home Minister G. Parameshwara, who is also the district in-charge Minister, said on Saturday that more than two lakh party workers from across the State are expected to attend the event.

He added that royalty revenue generated from mining activities in the district would be utilised for organising the programme.

The Congress has already held similar events in Hosapete and Haveri. An exhibition showcasing the government's projects and welfare programmes will also be organised. Various government departments are expected to set up stalls highlighting their public welfare initiatives and the achievements of the government's five flagship guarantee schemes.

The party plans to mobilise over two lakh people, a majority of them beneficiaries of the guarantee schemes, Dr. Parameshwara said.

He added that the event would also deliberate on developmental initiatives required for Tumakuru – a fast-growing educational and industrial hub located around 70 km from Bengaluru – to accelerate its growth in the coming years.

According to Dr. Parameshwara, the Revenue Department is expected to distribute title deeds and e-Swathu documents to nearly 1.35 lakh beneficiaries during the programme.

GP polls will be held before year-end, says Priyank

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge said the State government would conduct gram panchayat elections before the end of the current calendar year.

Speaking to presspersons in Kalaburagi on Saturday, Mr. Kharge said the deadline for filing objections regarding gram panchayat delimitation had ended, and the process for holding elections would be taken up shortly.

"After the gram panchayat elections, elections to taluk and zilla panchayats will also be conducted," he said.

Replying to questions on drinking water scarcity in Kalaburagi district, the Minister said there was no shortage of funds for drinking water supply works. "The government has already provided ₹5 crore to each district for drinking water management. Apart from this, the Kalyana Karnataka Region Development Board has sanctioned ₹17.3 crore for drinking water-related works," he said.

Mr. Kharge said task forces headed by MLAs had been constituted, and drinking water works were being taken up based on their recommendations.

He said he had already met Deputy Chief Minister and Water Resources Minister D.K. Shivakumar seeking the release of drinking water from the Bhima through Maharashtra to address summer water scarcity in the district.

When asked about the expansion of the State Cabinet, Mr. Kharge reiterated that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and the party high command would take a decision at the right time.

Bid to evolve road map for the future of pulses

B.S. Satish Kumar
BENGALURU

Though India is the world's largest producer of pulses, farm scientists and policy makers are concerned over its low yield as pulses form an integral part of nutritional security owing to their high protein contents. India still depends on imports for nearly 15% of its domestic requirements.

Low yield is a cause for concern as pulses also play a crucial role protecting the soil health through nitrogen fixing. Cultivation of pulses has been a natural way of enriching soil without using fertilizer in traditional agricultural methods which is now being adopted in organic farming.

About 250 agricultural scientists from across the country met recently in Bengaluru to deliberate on ways and means of increasing productivity as well as the area of cultivation of pulses. The group meet of All India Co-ordinated Research Project on Kharif Pulses had been organised by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and attended by its director-general M.L. Jat.

"The meeting has discussed various aspects related to enhancing crop production through ensuring availability of improved seeds, proper awareness among farmers on the right combination of pesticides to be used among other issues. Based on these deliberations, a project would be evolved to strengthen the country's pulse production," noted Lohithaswa H.C., principal scientist (Plant Breeding) and head of ICAR - All India Coordinated Research Project on Kharif Pulses, and organising secretary of the annual group meet.

Pulses of the nation

Major kharif pulses include

Country's pulses production trend

Year	Area (million ha)	Production (million tonnes)	Productivity (kg/ha)
2019–20	28.3	23.0	810
2020–21	29.0	25.5	880
2021–22	30.0	27.3	910
2022–23	29.4	26.1	890
2023–24	28.5	24.0	840

Karnataka's pulses' production trend

Year	Area (lakh ha)	Production (lakh tonne)	Productivity (kg/ha)
2019–20	15.5	9.5	610
2020–21	16.2	11.2	690
2021–22	16.8	12.0	710
2022–23	16.0	10.8	675
2023–24	15.2	9.8	640

> Pulses ensure economic security for dry-land farmers as they are generally grown in rain-fed areas, during monsoon.
>
> **LOHITHASWA H.C.,** Principal scientist (Plant Breeding) and head of ICAR - All India Coordinated Research Project on Kharif Pulses

In rain-fed areas

"Pulses ensure economic security for dry-land farmers as they are generally grown in rain-fed areas, during monsoon. They are easy to cultivate as most of them are short-duration crops. They are advantageous to both growers as well as consumers," Dr. Lohithaswa told *The Hindu*.

"The pulses production as well as productivity has remained low as most of the pulses producing States grow them only in marginal areas and not as a full-fledged crop. Also, the lack of awareness among farmers about the availability of improved seed varieties besides the attack of new pests and diseases are affecting production of pulses," he observed.

According to him, climate change has affected pulses' production as new pests and diseases have started emerging.

As inter crop

He said the group meeting had decided to popularise cultivation of pulses as inter-crops in mango orchards; and areca and coconut plantations so that the area of cultivation of pulses would not only increase, but the soil health of these plantations would also improve.

He also stressed the need for creating awareness among tail-end farmers in irrigation command areas to take up the cultivation of pulses when there is no adequate supply of water to grow water-intensive crops. Karnataka, which stands second in the country's kharif pulses production next to Maharashtra, too was facing the problem of low productivity, he pointed out.

Basavaraj Dhareppa Kempawad. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Belagavi man is all-India topper in IFoS exam

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Basavaraj Dhareppa Kempawad, from Athani in Belagavi, has secured the all-India first rank in the UPSC Indian Forest Service examination, whose results were declared on Saturday. This was his second attempt.

Mr. Kempawad stood first among the 148 total recommended candidates across the country. He is a forestry sciences graduate from the College of Forestry in Sirsi of Uttara Kannada. His father Dhareppa Kempawad is a farmer in Savadi village near Athani.

After primary school in Savadi From class 6 to 10, Basavaraj Kempawad studied at the Morarji Desai Residential School in Alagavadi in Raibag taluk. He completed PU at Yallatti in Jamkhandi taluk of Bagalkot district and moved to Sirsi for Bsc. He joined a group of friends in Bengaluru to study for the UPSC Civil Services examinations.

"I come from an ordinary farming family in a rural area. I cleared the examination without resorting to any special courses. I am sure my success will inspire others to attempt such examinations," he said.

Kodava academy aims to create new chapter in library culture

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

As reading habits continue to decline in the digital age, the Karnataka Kodava Sahitya Academy has launched a unique initiative aimed at reviving library culture by bringing books directly into houses, offices, and community spaces across Karnataka.

The academy has begun setting up personalised libraries for individuals and organisations interested in creating reading spaces, with each library consisting of a bookshelf and a curated collection of books based on the preferences of the recipient.

Speaking about the initiative with *The Hindu*, academy president Ajjinikanda Mahesh Nachaiah said that the programme was started with the intention of encouraging people to reconnect with books at a time when libraries and reading habits are slowly fading.

"Today, many youngsters spend more time on mobile phones and social media. By setting up libraries in houses, offices, and community spaces, we want to create an environment where books become a part of daily life again," Mr. Nachaiah said.

Under the initiative which started this February 7, the academy collects a charge of ₹10,000, which is utilised for purchasing books and providing a bookshelf to the applicant. Along with books brought out by the academy, additional ones are selected according to the interests and language preferences of the individual or organisation.

The Karnataka Kodava Sahitya Academy has begun setting up personalised libraries for individuals and organisations interested in creating reading spaces. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mr. Nachaiah said that the initiative was not limited to Kodava literature alone. "We provide books in Kannada, English, Kodava, and other languages depending on what people prefer. We also collect books through donations and purchase additional titles so that every library becomes unique and useful to the people using it," he said.

So far, the academy has established libraries in nine locations, including residences, community spaces like Kodava Samajas, offices, and associations in the district. One such library has also been set up at the residence of Virajpet MLA A.S. Ponnanna. The initiative has also expanded beyond Kodagu, with a library already established in Mysuru Kodava Samaja.

Among those who benefited from the initiative is Kukera Jaya Chinappa, a resident of Arekadu village in Madikeri taluk.

"I was impressed by the concept when I heard about it. People in our village regularly gather at the association building in the evenings, and now, because of this initiative, we have a proper library there. The collection includes Kodava, Kannada and English books, and many villagers have started reading during their free time," he told *The Hindu*.

Similarly, Palandira Jaga Joyappa, a resident of Balamberi village, said the initiative helped preserve the literary legacy of his ancestral house.

"Our grandparents were avid readers and had a large collection of books. Over the years, many books were lost or scattered because we did not know how to maintain them properly. After learning about this initiative, the academy helped us organise the books and establish a proper library in our ancestral house," he told *The Hindu*.

The Hindu EducationPlus career counselling a hit

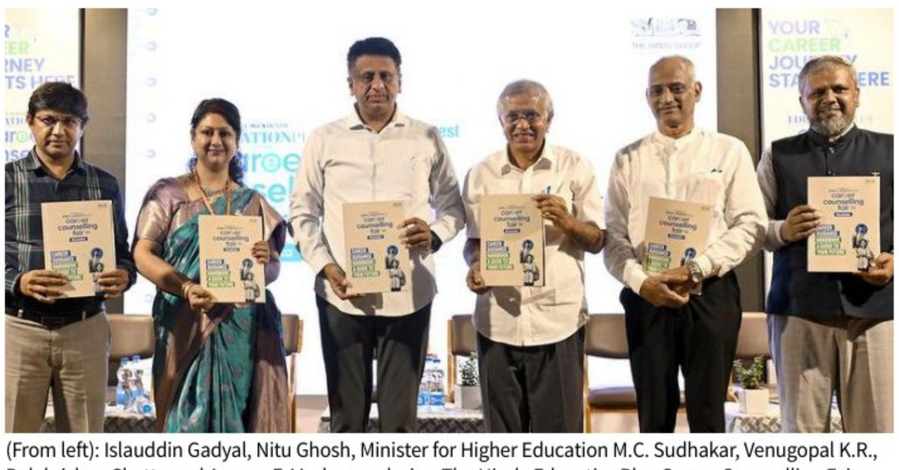
Around 42 higher educational institutions, including medical and engineering colleges, and banks were brought under one roof to benefit 1,000 students and parents who participated in the fair

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The 24th edition of *The Hindu* EducationPlus Career Counselling Fair-2026 held at SJRC auditorium of Sri Jagadguru Renukacharya College of Science, Arts and Commerce, Bengaluru, on Saturday, received a massive response from students and parents.

Around 42 higher educational institutions, including medical and engineering colleges, and banks were brought under one roof to benefit around 1,000 students and parents who participated in the event.

In his inaugural address, M.C. Sudhakar, Minister for Higher Education, said, "We need to start bringing in career counselling to the students at a very young age, probably at the grade 8 itself."



(From left): Islauddin Gadyal, Nitu Ghosh, Minister for Higher Education M.C. Sudhakar, Venugopal K.R., Balakrishna Shetty and Ameen E-Mudassar, during *The Hindu* EducationPlus Career Counselling Fair 2026, in Bengaluru on Saturday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

Higher Education Minister Sudhakar suggested that career counselling could begin early, at grade 8

Post globalisation

Dr. Sudhakar reminisced that when he was a student, there were limited career options. "We only looked at medicine, dentistry, engineering and if we did not get a seat anywhere, the last option was law. But with globalisation, a lot of multinational companies (MNCs) have their presence in our country," he said, pointing to wider options.

But he cautioned that what is relevant today might not be relevant after four years. "If you choose some stream in engineering, due to the amount of disruption happening in the field of technology, by the time you graduate, it may not be relevant. Therefore, students do not need to run after Computer Science (CS)-related engineering courses thinking they are trending courses. Only 17% of engineering graduates get employed, and this number is higher for computer science," he said.

However, Dr. Sudhakar pointed out, some private engineering colleges, trying to exploit the situation, have increase intake as they please. "There are more than 3,000 computer science related seats in some colleges," he said, adding that steps have been taken to regulate seats based on the report of the S. Sadagopan Committee.

Experts speak

Speaking about engineering courses, K.R. Venugopal, former Vice-Chancellor of Bangalore University, said students can get good jobs only if they do inter-disciplinary, intra-disciplinary, cross-disciplinary, multi-disciplinary and trans-disciplinary courses.

"Since engineering graduates did not have hybrid courses, it was difficult to get a job. In this context, electronics was embedded into mechanical engineering and mechatronics was made. Computer science, artificial intelligence, robotics, machine learning, and other courses have been blended with mechanical and civil engineering. This is also creating more job opportunities. The AI and other technologies have been implemented in all disciplines," he said.

On medical courses, Balakrishna Shetty, Vice-Chancellor of Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth, Puducherry, said, "Infrastructure like the hospital, its capacity, and the kind of patients who come to that hospital should play a key role in the selection of medical colleges. Students should select colleges which have the highest bed capacity and have a large influx of patients."

He pointed out that almost 20 lakh people take the NEET exam, but only 11 lakh people qualify across the country for one lakh medical seats. "If you want to become a doctor, skill and practical knowledge is important," he added. Speaking on CET-2026 counselling, Islauddin Gadyal, Administrative Officer of Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA), described the CET counselling procedure, which is now entirely online and important aspects to look out for.

> My son wants to shift to Business Management and we don't have too much knowledge of this field. We got a chance to interact with some of the dignitaries from the business and management fields, and it was good because my son got a chance to get his doubts cleared
>
> **RAJATHA**
> Parent, Bengaluru

> We received a very positive response from the student and the parents. We have received around 250 registrations
>
> **SAHDEVA**
> East Point Group of Institutions

> This programme helped me find out new career options and also about the skills I would require
>
> **NANDITA**
> Student, SJRC PU College

> It is a very useful programme for parents and students. Before we came here, we did not know many things about professional courses, colleges and fee structure and others. We got all the information.
>
> **ANN MARIA**
> Student, Sheshadripuram PU-College

> It is beneficial if parents come with their children as both can understand the courses we offer
>
> **MARIO**
> Chanakya University

> I have been attending *The Hindu*'s career fairs for the past few years, and initiatives like these help students know about career options. It helps universities find out what is in demand and offer students relevant courses
>
> **GAURAV YADAV**
> Reva University

Speaking about the career opportunities in business and management, Nitu Ghosh, professor and director in the School of Management Studies, REVA University, said, "Business and management gives you limitless opportunities in various areas of the organisations, be it finance, marketing, human resource (HR), production, supply chain, logistics, and so on."

Speaking on the career options of Chartered Accountancy (CA), Kavitha Parmesh, CA and chairperson of ICAI, Bengaluru Branch, said, "There is a need for 10 lakh CAs across the nation, but as of now, we only have around 4 to 5 lakh CAs."

Ameen E-Mudassar, career counsellor and CEO of CIGMA, said students must learn multiple skills, upgrade themselves, and try to acquire online knowledge. "Don't choose your career influenced by others. At the end your graduation, you should have at least five internships."

Event sponsors

Platinum Sponsors: The Institute Chartered Accountants of India, Presidency University, Reva University.

Gold Sponsor: CMR University, Chanakya University, East Point Group of Institutions, Hindustan Group of Institutions, Chennai, Ramaiah College of Law.

Silver Sponsorship: ACS College of Engineering, Alliance University, Adichunchanagiri University, B.G. Nagar, BLDE Association, Vijayapura, Bheemanna Khandre Institute of Technology (BKIT), Balki, Bidar, Credila, IIBS, IDP, JSS Science & Technology University, Mysuru, JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research, Mysuru, Karnataka State Open University, Mysuru, Khaja Bandanawaz University, Kammavaari Sangham Group of Institutions, Karnataka Bank, KLE Technological University, Hubballi, Nitte (Deemed to be University), Rajarajeswari College of Engineering, Shri Madhava Vadiraja Institute of Technology and Management, Soundarya Institute of Management & Science, SDM Educational Society (R), Ujire, Shanthivana Trust, Dharmasthala, Sharn Basva University, Kalaburagi, Shaheen Group of Institutions, Bidar, Vidyavardhaka College of Engineering, Mysuru, Navkis College of Engineering, Hassan.

Associate Sponsors: Hyderabad Karnataka Education Society, Kalaburagi, Azim Premji University, ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education, Mahindra University, MS College of Engineering, VTU Visveswaraya Technological University, Belagavi, Canara Engineering College, Mangaluru.

Regional Sponsors: Kristu Jayanti (Deemed to be University), Royal College of Management Studies.

Census staff conduct late-night visits

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Census enumerators are conducting late-evening and late-night visits to locked houses across the Central City Corporation limits to ensure no household is left out of the ongoing House Listing and Housing Census exercise under the first phase of Census 2027.

While the exercise is intensified to meet the deadline, a large number of houses in the city have remained inaccessible during the day as residents are away at work or unavailable for other reasons.

To address this, the Census staff have been directed to 'revisit' such houses during evening hours and continue the exercise till late at night, Additional Commissioner (Development) Daljeet Kumar said on Saturday.

Drive to continue

He said the late-night enumeration drive has been under way for the past four days and would continue until the completion deadline.

Son of driver to receive 11 gold medals at UAS convocation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Prem Kumar K.E. and his parents, Eshwar Rao and Lakshmi Bai, are filled with pride as he prepares to receive multiple honours for his academic achievements.

Prem Kumar K.E.

Kumar, whose father works as a light commercial vehicle driver and his mother a homemaker, is set to receive 11 gold medals and four gold medal certificates at the 60th convocation of the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, which will be held on the GKVK Campus, Bengaluru. Hailing from Kudiyanur village in Kolar, Kumar secured a total OGPA of 9.102 as a BSc (Hons) Agriculture student at the College of Agriculture, GKVK, Bengaluru.

"I'm extremely happy, and so are my parents, that my hard work has paid off and is being recognised with these awards," he said. Currently pursuing his postgraduate degree at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, Kumar plans to do a PhD after completing his master's and appear for the civil services exams. "My dream is to become an Indian Administrative Services officer. My teachers have been very supportive and believe that I have the potential for it," he said.

During the convocation, 140 gold medals and certificates will be awarded to 55 students who secured outstanding ranks during the academic year 2024-25.

Female students have emerged as top performers, with 35 students across bachelors, master's and doctoral programmes collectively securing 97 medals and certificates, compared to 43 won by 20 male students. While 59 gold medals will be awarded in the Undergraduate Degree Programme, 68 will be awarded in the Postgraduate Degree Programme, and 13 in the Doctor of Philosophy Degree Programme. A large number of gold medallists come from farming backgrounds.

Governor and Chancellor of UAS Thaawarchand Gehlot will preside over the ceremony where 1,115 students will be conferred with various degrees.

As many as 747 students will receive their bachelor's degrees, 260 students will receive master's degrees, and 108 students will receive doctoral degrees. N. Cheluvarayaswamy, Minister for Agriculture and Pro-Chancellor of UAS (B), M. Jagadesh Kumar, former Chairman, University Grants Commission, New Delhi, and S.V. Suresha, Vice-Chancellor, UAS(B) will participate in the event.

Honorary doctorate degrees will be conferred on G.V.K. Naidu, chairman and managing director of Sam Agri Fresh Private Limited; Srikantha H.K, agricultural entrepreneur, progressive farmer, and social worker; and Aravind T.M, a pioneer in the adoption of high-tech precision farming, in recognition of their commendable service in the field of agriculture.

From Page One

Police to prioritise housing for personnel facing caste bias

Eligible applicants should then be allotted available police quarters on an urgent basis. The directive has been approved by senior officials and communicated to all units concerned for immediate implementation.

A senior police officer has flagged a rise in caste-linked disputes in residential areas over the past few years, saying tensions between "upper" and "lower" caste groups appear to be widening. "Complaints are coming from both sides," the officer said. "Some landlords allege harassment through what they call false cases and prolonged non-payment of rent, while tenants claim discrimination and denial of housing." The officer added that in some instances, landlords have begun informally avoiding renting homes to certain communities to "prevent disputes."

Civic employees warn of strike

BENGALURU: The Karnataka State Municipal Corporation Employees' Association has written to the Urban Development Department, warning that it would suspend all municipal works and go on strike in June if its long-pending demands are not addressed. It's key demands include amendment to the General Appointment Rules of Municipal Corporations, 2011.

DRAVIDIAN UNIVERSITY
Srinivasavanam, Kuppam-517 426.

PUBLIC NOTICE

WITHDRAWAL OF 2023 FACULTY RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATIONS

Pursuant to the resolution of the Executive Council of Dravidian University and the orders issued by the Government vide G.O. RT.No.68 Higher Education (UE) Department, Dated 06.05.2026, the permission earlier accorded for filling up of 24 vacant faculty positions (regular and backlog) in the University is hereby withdrawn. Consequently, the faculty recruitment notifications issued in 2023 vide (1) Notification No.1/DU/Backlog-SC&ST/2023 dated 30.10.2023; (2) Notification No.2/DU/Assistant Professor/Regular/2023 dated 30.10.2023; (3) Notification No.3/DU/Associate Professor/Backlog BC & Regular/2023 dated 30.10.2023; & (4) Notification No.4/DU/Professor/Regular/2023 dated 30.10.2023 for filling up the said posts stand withdrawn. Candidates who had applied to the 2023 notifications may visit the University website **www.dravidianuniversity.ac.in** for information regarding the refund of the application fee. The dates of fresh notifications, and other particulars, will be announced separately.

Date: 09-05-2026 Sd/- REGISTRAR I/c

SRI KRISHNADEVARAYA UNIVERSITY
ANANTHAPURAMU - 515003. A.P.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Withdrawal of 2023 Faculty Recruitment Notifications

Pursuant to the resolution of the Executive Council of Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Ananthapuramu and the orders issued by the Government vide G.O. Rt. No. 57, Higher Education (UE) Dept., dated 06.05.2026, the permission earlier accorded for filling up of 219 vacant faculty positions in the University vide G.O. Rt. No. 147, Higher Education (UE) Dept., dated 11.10.2023 is hereby withdrawn. Consequently, the faculty recruitment notifications issued vide **a)** Notification No.1/Sri Krishnadevaraya University/ Backlog-SC&ST/2023, dt. 30.10.2023, **b)** Notification No. 2/Sri Krishnadevaraya University /Assistant Professor/BC Backlog & Regular / 2023, dt. 30.10.2023) **c)** Notification No. 3/Sri Krishnadevaraya University/Associate Professor / BC Backlog & Regular / 2023, dt. 30.10.2023 and d) Notification No.4/Sri Krishnadevaraya University/Professor/2023, dt. 30.10.2023, for filling up the said posts stand withdrawn. Candidates who had applied to the notifications-2023 may visit the University website at www.skuniversity.ac.in for information regarding refund of the application fee. The dates of fresh notifications and other particulars will be announced separately.

Sd/- REGISTRAR

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY ANANTAPUR
ANANTHAPURAMU-515002. (A.P.) INDIA

PUBLIC NOTICE

WITHDRAWAL OF 2023 FACULTY RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION

Pursuant to the resolution of the Executive Council of Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Anantapur, Ananthapuramu and the orders issued by the Government vide G.O.RT. No. 65, Higher Education (UE) Department; dated. 06.05.2026, the permission earlier accorded for filling up 203 vacant faculty positions in the University is hereby withdrawn. Consequently, the faculty recruitment notifications dt. 30.10.2023 for filling up the said posts stand withdrawn. Candidates who had applied to the 2023 notifications may visit the University website at www.jntua.ac.in for information regarding refund of the application fee. The dates of fresh notifications and other particulars, will be announced separately.

Sd/- REGISTRAR

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the General Public that, I, Nirmal Jain W/o late D.K. Jain, aged about 84 years, resident of # A/24/A, near Metro Station, Kailas Colony, South Delhi, Delhi-110 048, is the owner in possession and enjoyment of the lands bearing Sy No. 12/2, 15/1, 20/1, 20/3, 22/1, 22/2 and 109/1, all admeasuring 13 acres 04 guntas, situated at Thirnahalli village, Nandi hobli, Chickballapur taluk, Karnataka. It has been some credible information that, some third parties are intending to sell and convey the said lands in my absence. I have not been executed any kind of documents authorizing to execute any deeds. Therefore, I request the general public be aware by such impersonations. If anybody approach you general public saying that the said properties are for sale, kindly contact me and not to dupe by anybody. If received any such information, please call and contact me.

Smt. Nirmal Jain W/o late D.K. Jain, aged about 84 years, R/at. # A/24/A, near Metro Station, Kailas Colony, South Delhi, Delhi-110 048
Mobile 87792 02634/7836039369

RANI CHANNAMMA UNIVERSITY

Vidyasangama, National Highway – 04, Bhootaramanahatti, Belagavi – 591156 (**NAAC Accredited with B+ Grade - 2021**)
Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan
E-mail: registrar@rcub.ac.in **Phone No.**: 0831-2565242
Office of the Registrar

Ref No: RCUB/RO/2026-27/641 Date:09.05.2026

-: Tender Notification (Through KPPP Portal):-

The Registrar,RaniChannamma University, Belagavi invites retender for Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Basic and Applied Science Laboratory Equipment under PM-USHA MERU Scheme (RCUB/2025-26/IND0026/Call-2) in the standard tender document. Tender E.M.D is Rs **1.65** Lakhs. Bidders are required to submit their tenders on or before **25.05.2026, 05.00 P.M** through the KPPP Portal at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details like any date extension, Addendum will be updated in said portal and the University website **www.rcub.ac.in** or contact the Estate Office, Rani Channamma University, Belagavi.

Sd/-
Registrar
Rani Channamma University,Belagavi

SRI VENKATESWARA UNIVERSITY:TIRUPATI - 517 502.
Tirupati - 517502, Tirupati District, Andhra Pradesh, India. Phone: +91 (877) 2289545, 2289414, E-Mail : vcsvutpt@yahoo.com, registrarsvu@gmail.com, registrar@svumail.edu.in. Website :www.svuniversity.edu.in

PUBLIC NOTICE **WITHDRAWAL OF 2023 FACULTY RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATIONS**

Pursuant to the resolution of the Executive Council of Sri Venkateswara University and the orders issued by the Government of Andhra Pradesh vide G.O.Rt.No.55 Higher Education (UE) Department, dated 06.05.2026, the permission earlier accorded for filling up 265 vacant faculty positions (regular and backlog) in the University is hereby withdrawn. Consequently, the folowing faculty recruitment notifications issued on 30.10.2023 for filling up the said posts stand withdrawn:

Sl. No.	Particulars
1)	No.1/SVU/E. II (2)/Backlog-SC&ST/2023, dated 30.10.2023.
2)	No.2/SVU/E. II (2)/Assistant Professors/BC Backlog & Regular/2023, dated 30.10.2023
3)	No.3/ SVU/E. II (2)/Associate Professors/BC Backlog & Regular/2023, dated 30.10.2023)
4)	No.4/SVU/E.II(2)/Professors/2023, dated 30.10.2023.

Candidates who had applied in response to the above notifications may visit the University website at www.svuniversity.edu.in for information regarding refund of the application fee. The dates of fresh notifications and other particulars, will be announced separately.

Sd/- REGISTRAR

SRI PADMAVATI MAHILA VISVAVIDYALAYAM
(WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY) Tirupati-517502 (A.P), India.

No.SPMVV/Estt./A1/2026 Dated 09.05.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE
WITHDRAWAL OF 2023 FACULTY RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATIONS

Pursuant to the resolution of the Executive Council of Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam and the orders issued by the Government vide G.O.Rt.No.67, the permission earlier accorded for filling up 103 vacant faculty positions in the University is hereby withdrawn. Consequently, the faculty recruitment notifications issued on 30.10.2023 for filling up the said posts stand withdrawn.

Candidates who had applied to the 2023 notifications may visit the University website at www.spmw.ac.in for information regarding refund of the application fee. The dates of fresh notifications and other particulars will be announced separately.

Sd/- REGISTRAR (FAC)
Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam, Tirupati,

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA - DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, KHAIRIBHANDAN & DEO IRRIGATION PROJECT, KARANJIA, AT/PO : KARANJIA, DIST:- MAYURBHANJ-757037
Tel : 06796-296144, Mail-Id- cce.dip.dowr@gmail.com

"e" Procurement Notice No.05/ CCEKDIP of 2026-27 - Bid Identification No. 05/ CCEKDIP of 2026-27

1.	Nature of the Work	:	Civil Work
2.	Number of Works	:	01 (One) No of Individual Work
3.	Approximate amount put to tender	:	Rs.2016.42 Lakh
4.	Period of Completion	:	12 (Twelve) Calendar Months including rainy season
5.	Class of Contractor	:	Special Class & Super Class
6.	Date & time of Availability of Bid document in the portal	:	Dt.12.05.2026 at 10.00 AM to 01.06.2026 up to 5.30 PM
7.	Last date & time of seeking tender clarification	:	Dt.20.05.2026 up to 5.30 PM through email
8.	Date & time for Pre-Bid Conference	:	22.05.2026, 11.00 AM
9.	Last date & time of receipt of Bids in the Portal	:	Dt.01.06.2026 up to 5.30 PM
10.	Date, time & place of opening of Technical Bid/s (Cover-I)	:	Dt.02.06.2026 at 10.30 AM in O/o the Chief Construction Engineer, Khairibhandan & Deo Irrigation Project, Karanjia
11.	Date, time & place of opening of Financial Bid/s (Cover-II)	:	To be intimated after evaluation of Technical BID
12.	Name & address of the officer inviting Bid	:	Chief Construction Engineer, Khairibhandan & Deo Irrigation Project, Karanjia, AT/PO-Karanjia, PS-Karanjia, Dist-Mayurbhanj, PIN-757037

*Further details can be seen from the Govt. web site : www.tendersodisha.gov.in.
Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said Website
32001/163/2627
Chief Construction Engineer, Khairibhandan & Deo Irrigation Project, Karanjia
OIPR-32001/32337/1/26-27/0004

Cong. meet fails to solve Kerala CM deadlock

Kharge, Rahul hold discussions with the three contenders for three hours; AICC general secretary in charge of Kerala says the high command has time until May 23 to finalise the candidate; party leadership dismayed at the poster wars and public marches across the State and warns of action

Dhinesh Kall ungal
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Congress's bid to name a Chief Minister for Kerala failed despite Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi holding consultations with the three main contenders – AICC general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal and senior leaders Ramesh Chennithala and V.D. Satheesan, and KPCC president Sunny Joseph – for over three hours on Saturday.

AICC observers Ajay Maken and Mukul Wasnik were also present at the meeting. The consultations were held together and individually.

"An appropriate decision will be taken by the high command in due course," Deepa Dasmunsi, party general secretary in charge of Kerala, told presspersons after the meeting.

Asked to specify further, she said the high command has time until May 23 to finalise the candidate. Flanked by the senior Congress leadership from Kerala, she urged party workers to refrain from the embarrassing public display of their chief ministerial choices.

Competing claims

Sources said the high-stakes discussions were marked by intense posturing and competing claims by the contenders. The Central leadership would hold no further consultations with the aspirants, they said. The high command, it is learnt, will take a final decision after considering the claims of each faction, along with the views of Congress MLA-designates and constituents of the United Democratic Front (UDF).

No solution yet: V.D. Satheesan, Ramesh Chennithala, Sunny Joseph and K.C. Venugopal leave Mallikarjun Kharge's residence. ANI

While the consultations in New Delhi were led by Mr. Kharge, Mr. Gandhi joined in, hoping to reach a consensus. Senior leaders said Mr. Kharge and Mr. Gandhi were visibly dismayed by the poster wars and public marches across Kerala over the past few days, rooting for their favourite leaders.

Poster war

Workers removed the aggressive flex boards, which sullied the party's image in the State, from many parts following the appeal even as new boards supporting other candidates surfaced.

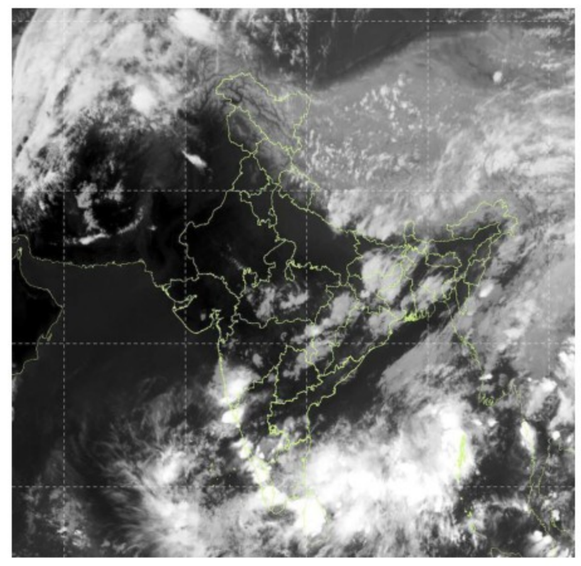
Earlier, Mr. Kharge had also directed the State leadership to take strict action against those violating party discipline and decorum in connection with the Chief Ministerial controversy in Kerala.

Mr. Venugopal has been asserting his claim to the top post by highlighting the support he enjoys among a majority of MLAs in the State, while Mr. Satheesan has continued to press his case by citing the leadership role he played in securing the party's impressive victory in Kerala. Mr. Chennithala, meanwhile, has been underscoring his seniority within the party as the basis for his claim to the post.

Earlier on Friday, Congress leader K. Muraleedharan said the views of the constituent parties in the UDF along with the opinions of the MLAs, should be considered in the debate over the chief ministerial candidate. The day also saw bitter exchanges between the KSU and the MSF, students wing of the Congress and its UDF partner IUML, after IUML's comments about the selection of Chief Minister drew flak from Congress MLA-elect Mathew Kuzhalnadan.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy Rainfall very likely at isolated places over Kerala & Mahe, Lakshadweep and Tamil Nadu Puducherry & Karaikal. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning & gusty winds (30-40kmph) very likely at isolated places over Assam & Meghalaya, South Interior Karnataka and Telangana.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	35.0	24.9	Kozhikode	—	34.2	26.4
Ahmedabad	—	43.4	28.0	Kurnool	—	40.4	26.9
Aizawl	—	33.4	20.1	Lucknow	—	33.9	24.4
Allahabad	—	39.4	23.2	Madurai	—	33.4	25.1
Bengaluru	—	32.1	20.2	Mangaluru	—	33.4	25.4
Bhopal	—	—	—	Mumbai	—	34.4	27.6
Bhubaneswar	—	37.3	23.9	Mysuru	—	34.6	22.0
Chandigarh	—	35.1	21.6	New Delhi	—	36.2	23.4
Chennai	23.9	31.0	25.1	Patna	—	32.6	21.6
Coimbatore	—	34.6	21.4	Port Blair	0.2	33.6	28.2
Dehradun	—	31.4	19.7	Puducherry	4.0	28.8	24.9
Gangtok	0.2	19.9	13.1	Pune	—	39.4	27.1
Goa	—	36.1	27.4	Raipur	—	39.0	24.0
Guwahati	—	32.8	21.9	Ranchi	2.0	33.3	19.0
Hubballi	—	38.0	24.0	Shillong	—	—	—
Hyderabad	—	36.4	26.3	Shimla	—	21.8	12.4
Imphal	—	32.5	17.0	Srinagar	—	31.7	12.5
Jaipur	—	39.0	25.5	Thiruvananthapuram	6.0	30.6	24.0
Kochi	15.0	31.2	23.4	Tiruchi	29.0	28.3	24.6
Kohima	—	—	—	Vijayawada	—	38.2	26.8
Kolkata	2.0	33.6	23.6	Visakhapatnam	—	34.4	28.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.13	.23	.98	69	137	
Bengaluru	.11	.64	.55	—	111	
Chennai	.2	.13	—	12	55	
Delhi	—	.50	.25	75	107	
Hyderabad	—	—	.34	14	—	
Kolkata	.17	.27	.36	135	82	
Lucknow	6	.43	.28	65	96	
Mumbai	3	.18	.69	42	129	
Pune	—	.29	140	72	108	
Visakhapatnam	7	.17	.14	11	40	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Bharatpur, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 207 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 16.

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Tussle over CM fuels meme storm

M.P. Praveen
KOCHI

The ongoing tussle among three Congress Chief Minister aspirants after the United Democratic Front's (UDF) historic Assembly mandate in Kerala has unleashed a tsunami of trolls and memes across social media.

From rib-tickling to downright biting, the menu of satire catered to every palate.

"For the UDF government, the Chief Minister's chair is no longer a chair but a bench," read one meme, complete with a bench photo, mocking the multiple contenders.

Another showed V.D. Satheesan, K.C. Venugopal and Ramesh Chennithala decked as royalty with the caption: "War paused for the third day since the sun has set," a cheeky nod to the Kurukshetra war breaks in Hindu epic Mahabharata.

Actor Bijukuttan was featured in a troll as a worried Pinarayi Vijayan, fretting whether he would be caretaker Chief Minister for five years. A film clip of Ganesh Kumar counting cash cast him as a flex-printing owner. This was an obvious hint at the windfall from the flex war among rival camps of Congress across the State.

The more creative came up with Artificial Intelligence generated videos as well. A viral video reimagined the Harikrishnans song sequence, swapping Mohanlal and Mammootty with Mr. Satheesan and Mr. Chennithala, before Mr. Venugopal crash-lands, crooning a Bollywood melody.

The Left Democratic Front, which was voted out, wasn't spared either. A clip from the popular movie *Thalavattam* cast Jagathy as a CPI(M) supporter pleading with Mohanlal, showed as a UDF supporter, to spare at least the seats as predicted by exit-polls.

KC(M) blames CPI(M) cross-voting for rout

The Hindu Bureau
KOTTAYAM

A steering committee meeting of the Kerala Congress (M), held in Kottayam, Kerala, on Saturday to assess the party's electoral rout in the Assembly polls, attributed the debacle primarily to cross-voting by Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)] cadres and the consolidation of minority communities against the party.

According to KC(M) chairman Jose K. Mani, the outgoing Left Democratic Front (LDF) government led by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan had pushed through a flurry of development initiatives, but failed to give those achievements a "popular political face."

"The meeting also took note of massive cross-voting by CPI(M) cadres and the consolidation of minorities against the LDF as key factors behind the electoral setback," he said.

INBRIEF

Free ride for women: KSRTC introduces gender ticketing

The State-run Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has begun the process to implement gender ticketing in buses across the State on Saturday. A circular was issued on Friday to the public utility officials suggesting measures to introduce a gender ticketing system in buses, which will record if a passenger is a woman, man or child in ticket machines operated by the conductor of the buses. The Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) had promised in its election manifesto that free travel would be provided for women.

Union Minister Bandi Sanjay's son booked under POCSO in Telangana

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD/ KARIMNAGAR

The Telangana Police on Friday registered a case under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act against Bandi Bhageerath, son of Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay, following a complaint by a 17-year-old girl.

The girl alleged that Mr. Bhageerath sexually assaulted her at a farmhouse in Moinabad on December 31.

Son files complaint

Hours before the case was filed on Friday, Mr. Bhageerath lodged a separate complaint at the Karimnagar Town-I Police Station alleging that he was being blackmailed and harassed by the girl's family. Police officials said both the complaints were being investigated separately.

The complaint lodged at Petbasheerbad Police alleged that the incident took place during a visit to the farmhouse and that a case was registered after her family approached the police.

Senior official close to the development said that the girl's family arrived at the police station at around 8 p.m. and a manual FIR was registered at around 10 p.m.

In his complaint, Mr. Bhageerath alleged that he had come into contact with the girl through a common friend and that they later became part of a larger social circle.

17-year-old says Bandi Bhageerath assaulted her, while he files a complaint of extortion against teenager's family

According to the complaint, Mr. Bhageerath alleged that after some time, the girl and her parents began putting pressure on him to marry her.

He claimed that when he refused, the family allegedly threatened to implicate him in false criminal cases, including allegations relating to harassment and physical relationship. He further alleged that the family demanded money from him and that, fearing consequences, he paid ₹50,000 to girl's father. However, he claimed the demands escalated and that the family later sought ₹5 crore, allegedly threatening that girl's mother would die by suicide if the amount was not paid.

However, the girl's family subsequently approached Petbasheerabad police and filed a counter-complaint, alleging that the girl was a minor and accusing Bhageerath of sexually assaulting her.

Following verification of her age, police booked a case under relevant POCSO provisions.

Three juveniles sent to observation home in 2024 rape case

The Hindu Bureau
PUTTAPARTHI

Three juveniles, who admitted to assisting the accused in a 2024 rape case registered at Chilamathur police station in Sri Sathya Sai district in Andhra Pradesh, were ordered by the Juvenile Justice Board, Anantapur, to be lodged in a government observation home for six months on Friday.

The juveniles were produced before Principal Magistrate R. Harika at a special session in connection with the case, registered under various provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). During the hearing, the minors confessed to their involvement in the offence, following which the board directed authorities to shift them to the Government Special Observation Home for Boys in Tirupati. The trio is expected to be brought to Tirupati on Saturday.

Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) K.V. Mahesh said the juveniles had been found guilty of aiding the main accused in the case. The then Chilamathur Sub-Inspector, Munir Ahmed, investigated the case and filed the chargesheet.

The three juveniles were among four arrested in the gangrape of a woman and her daughter in-law reported in a village in Chilamattur mandal in 2024.

AI-driven fraud detection key focus at hackathon

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Artificial intelligence-driven fraud detection systems developed through a national healthcare hackathon could help prevent large-scale misuse of public funds under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), said officials of the National Health Authority (NHA) on Saturday.

As the AI-driven fraud detection can also speed up claims processing and improve patient care, one of the central problem statements of the hackathon focused specifically on detecting document forgery, deepfakes and fraudulent medical claims.

Addressing presspersons at the finale of the two-day hackathon organised in collaboration with the IndiaAI Mission and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, Sunil Kumar Barnwal, NHA Chief Executive Officer (CEO), said the growing use of AI-generated fake medical records and forged claims had emerged as a serious challenge for public health insurance systems.

Sunil Kumar Barnwal, CEO, National Health Authority, along with Jyoti Yadav (left), Joint Secretary, AB-PMJAY, and Kiran Gopal Vaska, JS&MD (ABDM), NHA, addressing a press conference in Bengaluru on Saturday. K. MURALI KUMAR

The anti-fraud systems deployed have already prevented fraudulent claims worth around ₹630 crore under the scheme. Additional penalties and recoveries imposed on hospitals were estimated at around ₹200 crore, he said.

The hackathon sought solutions that could identify forged or manipulated documents, classify medical records correctly and verify whether submitted reports actually supported the treatment claimed by hospitals, Ms. Yadav said.

The official said several innovative solutions emerged during the event, including one fraud-detection model built entirely on mathematical techniques rather than conventional AI systems.

Data analytics was also helping authorities identify unusual treatment patterns across States. The officials said systems could detect suspicious trends where multiple beneficiaries from one region travelled to a particular hospital in another State for the same treatment shortly after obtaining Ayushman cards.

"Individually these cases may not appear suspicious, but when data is analysed collectively, patterns emerge," Ms. Yadav said.

The AI systems are also being used to identify irregularities in chemotherapy cycles, where hospitals allegedly bill for treatment sessions at medically impossible intervals.

"Healthcare fraud detection requires a careful balance, since overly rigid automated systems can also affect genuine patients. Health cannot function entirely on fixed rules because there are always exceptional cases," she added.

Innovators recognised for developing AI systems for healthcare claims processing

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The National Health Authority (NHA) on Saturday concluded the Auto-Adjudication Hackathon Showcase 2026 at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, with winning teams recognised for developing AI-driven solutions for healthcare claims processing under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY).

Organised in collaboration with the IndiaAI Mission and IISc Bengaluru, the hackathon focused on developing solutions to improve speed, transparency and accuracy in claims adjudication, while also strengthening fraud detection. The hackathon received around 3,500 registrations, while more than 600 participants attended masterclasses conducted for students, researchers and start-ups.

Winning teams

Under the category "Clinical Document Classification and Compliance to Standard Treatment Guidelines", Team Nirnaya, led by Vinay Babu Ulli, won the top prize for developing an AI-based system capable of reading healthcare claim documents and verifying compliance with treatment protocols.

Team Khushi Singh and Ronit from IIIT Gwalior secured the runner-up position, while Team Vidal Health finished second runner-up.

In the category "Radiological Image-Based Condition Detection and Report Correlation", Team BiltIQ AI, led by Harish Kumar, emerged winner for its AI-supported radiology interpretation system.

Team Kantaka Sodhana secured the runner-up position, while Team Arnold Sachith and Smitha Rao finished third.

Under the "Document Forgery/Deepfake Detection", Team Sopa Claims, led by Praveen Sridhar and Snehal Joshi, won for developing AI systems to detect forged medical documents. Team Forgensic from RGUKT-Nuzvid secured second place, while Team Sushurutha Health AI came third.

From Page One

Vijay to take reins today; T.N. set for coalition govt.

Supporters wait to greet Vijay following his meeting with the Governor in Chennai on Saturday. J. JOHAN SATHYADAS

The TVK, which won 108 seats in the recent Assembly election, has an effective strength of 107 as party president Mr. Vijay was elected from two constituencies. He will have to vacate one seat. The party secured support of five Congress MLAs-elect and two each from the CPI, CPI(M), VCK and IUML, all of whom had contested as part of the DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance (SPA).

'Support to TVK to avoid President's Rule'

With the CPI and CPI (M) already expressing support for the TVK, the TVK had been awaiting the VCK's decision. It was expected that the VCK would extend support around noon, but the formal letter was handed over to TVK general secretary (election campaign management) Aadhav Arjuna only in the evening.

Later, speaking to reporters at the VCK headquarters, party founder-president Thol. Thirumavalavan said, "Since the time of the People's Welfare Front, the Left and the VCK have been functioning together based on ideology. Therefore, in the context of this political crisis, the Left and the VCK consulted and decided together, keeping a long-term vision in mind."

Mr. Thirumavalavan said the decision to support the TVK was taken after consulting the party's high-level committee. "The basis of this decision is to prevent President's Rule from being imposed in Tamil Nadu by using this political crisis, and we do not want to be an obstacle to the TVK forming the new government."

Mr. Thirumavalavan also made it clear that his party would extend unconditional support to the government from outside.

When asked if the alliance with the DMK would continue, he said, "We are still in the DMK-led alliance. But as a political party, we have used our independence to take this stand. I don't think this will affect our relationship."

Suvendu sworn in as Bengal's first BJP CM

Clad in a saffron *kurta and a dhoti*, Mr. Adhikari took the oath in Bengali amid loud cheers from supporters at a grand ceremony at Kolkata's Brigade Parade Ground. Chief Ministers from almost 20 BJP and NDA-ruled States attended the event, along with Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and several other Union Cabinet Ministers.

Mr. Modi bowed to the crowd as a mark of gratitude for the mandate the BJP secured in the recently concluded Assembly election. The party won 207 of 293 constituencies that went to the polls, while the Trinamool Congress was reduced to 80 seats. Mr. Adhikari was elected the leader of the BJP legislature party on Friday.

Those who took oath as Ministers in the new Cabinet included Dilip Ghosh, Agnimitra Paul, Ashok Kirtania, Kshudiram Tudu, and Nisith Pramanik.

In a social media message, Mr. Modi wished Mr. Adhikari, a "fruitful tenure". Congratulating the new Ministers, the Prime Minister said, "They will further strengthen West Bengal's journey of development."

Mr. Modi described the oath-taking ceremony on *Pochishe Boishakh* (25th day of Baisakh), the birth anniversary of Tagore, as a "pleasant coincidence". The stage was adorned with a large portrait of Tagore.

Invoking Swami Vivekananda, the newly elected Chief Minister cited the monk's words, "*Charaiveti, Charaiveti* [keep going]", as he called upon people to work towards building a new Bengal. "Let us rebuild Bengal," he said.

Later, he also held a meeting with senior civic and police officials, including Chief Secretary Dushyant Nariala, Director-General of Police Siddh Nath Gupta, Kolkata Police Commissioner Ajay Nand and took stock of the law-and-order situation.

Mr. Adhikari is the ninth Chief Minister of the State and will preside over the 18th West Bengal Legislative Assembly. He is also the first Chief Minister from rural Bengal in nearly five decades, coming after leaders like Mamata Banerjee, Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, Jyoti Basu and Siddharth Shankar Roy, all from Kolkata.

Congratulatory messages poured in from across several quarters, including from the Bangladesh Awami League, which stated, "The mandate of the people of West Bengal is a unique recognition of Shri Suvendu Adhikari's strong leadership."

Former Union Minister and High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh Dinesh Trivedi, who participated in the swearing-in ceremony, said the State was witnessing "real independence".

Meanwhile, Subrata Gupta, who had served as the Election Commission's special roll observer for the 2026 West Bengal Assembly elections, has been appointed as an advisor to the Chief Minister.

Second plea filed in SC against T.N. Governor

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A writ petition was filed in the Supreme Court on Saturday to declare a May 7 press release by Tamil Nadu Governor Rajendra Arlekar, denying the claim made by Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) party president C. Joseph Vijay to form the government, as unconstitutional and arbitrary.

The petition filed by retired IPS officer M. Ramasubramani, through advocate G. Siva Bala Murugan, submitted that the Governor's refusal to invite Mr. Vijay, as the head of the single largest party which emerged after the Assembly election, was a hostile move against parliamentary democracy.

"It is well-settled that in a parliamentary democracy governed by the Constitution, the question whether a political party or coalition commands majority support can only be determined on the floor of the House and not by way of subjective satisfaction, private consultations or roving enquiry undertaken at Lok Bhavan..," he submitted.

This is the second petition filed in the top court in as many days against the Governor's position that Mr. Vijay should provide MLAs' physical letters of support.

AAP, Opposition face off as ED arrests Punjab Minister

State Industries Minister Sanjeev Arora held over 'large-scale money laundering'; CM Mann comes to Minister's defence even as Opposition parties slam AAP over its failure to deliver honest governance

Vikas Vasudeva
CHANDIGARH

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday arrested Sanjeev Arora, the Industries Minister in the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Punjab, in an alleged money-laundering case involving him and associated entities, triggering a political slugfest.

He was taken into custody after the ED searched the premises of the Minister and his associates in relation to a case registered under provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, an official said. Searches were held at five locations across Delhi, Gurugram, and Chandigarh, including the official residence of Mr. Arora. Office premises associated with Hampton Sky Realty Ltd. and other linked entities were also searched.

According to an official, the Central agency suspects Mr. Arora of involvement in large-scale money laundering through fake Goods and Services Tax (GST) purchases of mobile phones by his company, amounting to more than ₹100 crore, and the subsequent export of the devices to "round-trip" illegitimate funds from Dubai to India.

In the dock: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, right, with Sanjeev Arora, in this file photo. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

In April, the ED had searched the Minister and his associates under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA). He was searched in 2024 also in connection with a money-laundering case over alleged misuse of industrial land for residential projects. He was then a Rajya Sabha member.

Nothing was seized: CM

Reacting to the searches, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said, "The ED has raided Sanjeev Arora's residence three times in a year and twice within a month without recovering anything." Mr. Mann questioned why such searches were being carried out only in States where the BJP was not in power.

The Opposition parties, however, trained their guns on the AAP government over its failure to deliver honest governance. Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader Bikram Singh Majithia alleged there was a land, power, housing and property developer nexus operating under political patronage in Punjab, and a time-bound probe should be undertaken into the matter. "The arrest has exposed the seriousness of the financial irregularities network functioning in the State...," he said.

Punjab BJP president Sunil Jakhar accused the government of shielding corruption and defending individuals allegedly involved in land-related scams under probe by the ED. Taking a dig at the Chief Minister, he said that if the government were truly honest, it would have acted against the alleged corruption itself instead of defending those involved.

The Leader of the Opposition in the Punjab Assembly, Congress's Partap Singh Bajwa, said Mr. Arora's arrest had once again exposed the serious corruption allegations surrounding the AAP.

"This is not an isolated case, as several senior AAP leaders and individuals close to the Punjab government have repeatedly come under the scanner of investigative agencies... Every time corruption allegations emerge, AAP leaders conveniently hide behind the excuse of 'political vendetta' instead of answering direct questions," he said.

AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal termed the ED's action a political warning to Punjab. Mr. Kejriwal alleged that the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi were trying to challenge the State through the ED. However, he said, the people of Punjab had not bowed in the past and would teach them a lesson in the 2027 Assembly election.

Myanmar extremist group frees Naga woman

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Assam Rifles personnel on Saturday secured the release of a Tangkhul Naga woman from Manipur who was abducted by members of the Kuki National Army-Burma (KNA-B) and Village Volunteers Eastern Zone during a pre-dawn attack on Tangkhul Naga villages in Kamjong district along the India-Myanmar border on May 7.

A spokesperson for the paramilitary force said the release of Olina Ningshen, 45, was secured from the abductors at a place south of Z. Choro village "under the watch" of Assam Rifles, intelligence, and other agencies.

According to a statement issued by the paramilitary force, the abducted woman's husband, the village headman, and members of civil society organisations (CSOs) were present during the release.

"After the release, the family and CSOs were taken to unit headquarters at Chassad [near the international border] for the formal handing over and documentation," the statement said.

The locals were later moved to their village, Khangphat Khn.

The abducted woman and others were provided medical and psychological assistance.

India test-fires Agni missile that can deploy multiple warheads

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India has successfully test-fired an advanced Agni missile with the strategic ability to deploy multiple payloads to separate targets simultaneously – a milestone that places the country among a select league of global powers.

The testing of the missile with Multiple Independently Targeted Re-Entry Vehicle (MIRV) system was carried out from Odisha's A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Island on Friday, according to the Defence Ministry.

The MIRV feature ensures that a single missile can deploy multiple warheads at different locations simultaneously.

The missile was flight-tested with multiple payloads, targeted to different targets spatially distributed over a large geographical area in the Indian Ocean Region, the Ministry added.

An image from the flight trial of an advanced Agni missile on Friday. DEFENCE MINISTRY

Incredible capability

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has complimented the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Indian Army, and the industry partners concerned on the successful flight-test of the missile.

This will add an incredible capability to the country's defence preparedness against the growing threat perceptions, he said.

The Ministry said the telemetry and tracking was carried out by multiple ground and ship-based stations. "These systems tracked the entire missile trajectory from lift-off till the impact of all payloads. Flight data confirmed that all mission objectives were met during the trial," it said.

"With this successful trial, India once again demonstrated the capability to target multiple strategic targets using a single missile system," the Ministry said in a statement.

Lt. Gen. N.S. Subramani named next CDS; Vice-Admiral Krishna Swaminathan to be Navy chief

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Saturday announced two major appointments, naming Lieutenant-General N.S. Raja Subramani (retd) as the next Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and Vice-Admiral Krishna Swaminathan as the next Chief of the Naval Staff.

According to the Ministry of Defence, Lt.-Gen. Subramani will succeed General Anil Chauhan, whose tenure as the CDS ends on May 30. Along with the role of the CDS, he will also serve as Secretary, Department of Military Affairs.

Currently serving as Military Adviser in the National Security Council Secretariat since September 2025, the senior officer has earlier held key positions, including Vice Chief of Army Staff and General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Central Command.

Commissioned into the 8 Garhwal Rifles in December 1985, Lt.-Gen. Subramani is a graduate of the National Defence Academy and the Indian Military Academy. He has also attended the Joint Services Command Staff College in the U.K. and the National Defence College in New Delhi.

Lieutenant-General N.S. Raja Subramani (retd) and, right, Vice-Admiral Krishna Swaminathan.

During a distinguished career spanning over four decades, he commanded formations in Assam, Jammu and Kashmir, the Central Sector and along the Western Front, including the prestigious 2 Corps. He has also served in several important operational, instructional and strategic staff appointments. For his distinguished service, he has been awarded the Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, Sena Medal, and Vishisht Seva Medal.

Vice-Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, who has been appointed as the next Chief of Naval Staff, will succeed Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, who retires on May 31.

He currently serves as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Naval Command. Commissioned into the Indian Navy in 1987, he is a specialist in Communication and Electronic Warfare. Over the course of his Naval career, he commanded several frontline warships, including *INS Mysore* and aircraft carrier *INS Vikramaditya*, and held key appointments in operations, personnel and training.

A recipient of the Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, and Vishisht Seva Medal, the Vice-Admiral has also served as Vice Chief of the Naval Staff and holds multiple postgraduate degrees, including a Ph.D. in International Studies.

Indian sailor killed in dhow fire near Strait of Hormuz

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

An Indian sailor was killed and several others injured after their wooden dhow caught fire near the Strait of Hormuz, government sources said on Saturday.

Seventeen other Indian crew members were rescued following the incident on Friday, they said, noting that the exact cause of the blaze is still being ascertained. The crew members were rescued by a vessel that was passing by in the area, the sources said.

The incident came amid increasing hostilities between Iran and the U.S. in the strait, a vital maritime chokepoint between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman through which a significant portion of the world's oil supply passes.

If confirmed as a casualty of the ongoing conflict, this latest death brings the total number of Indian fatalities to nine since hostilities broke out.

Officials from the Indian Consulate in Dubai met the rescued Indian nationals on Friday night, said another source. The consulate is also in touch with the dhow owner and is extending all possible assistance, the sources said.

The Hindu's campaigns shine at INMA Global Media Awards

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Hindu's media campaigns earned global recognition at the prestigious INMA Global Media Awards 2026, with "*The Hindu* Written By Journalists", a brand campaign, winning the first place in the Best Brand Awareness Campaign category, and "*The Hindu* Made Of Chennai", a city celebration campaign, securing the third place in the Best Event to Build a News Brand category.

'Connecting deeply'

The INMA Global Media Awards celebrate excellence and innovation across the news media industry, recognising best practices in news brands, audience engagement, subscriptions, product development, advertising, commerce, and newsroom transformation.

Commenting on the achievement, L.V. Navaneeth, CEO of The Hindu Group, said, "These recognitions underscore our commitment to creating meaningful campaigns that connect deeply with audiences while reinforcing the strength and relevance of our brands through creativity, innovation, and impactful storytelling." "Written By Journalists" is a brand campaign by *The Hindu* that spotlighted the importance of credible, fact-based journalism, created by experienced journalists at a time when misinformation and unverified content are increasingly prevalent.

Through impactful storytelling and sharp messaging, the campaign reinforced the value of trusted journalism and *The Hindu*'s editorial legacy.

"Made of Chennai" is a city-centric initiative by *The Hindu* that celebrates the stories, culture, creativity, and spirit of Chennai.

The media campaign brought together citizens, creators, entrepreneurs, artists, and change-makers through experiences and conversations that reflected the city's identity and emotional fabric. Suresh Nambath, Editor, *The Hindu*, said, "These recognitions reflect what *The Hindu* has stood for over the years: credible journalism, public trust, and a deep connection with the communities we serve. Whether through 'Written By Journalists' or 'Made of Chennai', it is encouraging to see these values resonate on a global platform like the INMA."

Regional, caste balance shapes BJP's first Cabinet in Bengal

Party gives ministerial berths to representatives of the Matua, tribal, OBC, Rajbanshi, Brahmin, and Kayastha communities, with Agnimitra Paul being the sole woman in Cabinet; decision on expansion to be taken after swearing-in of MLAs-elect

Shiv Sahay Singh
Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has weighed regional and community considerations while allocating ministerial berths in its first Cabinet in West Bengal.

Along with Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari, five other MLAs were administered the oath of office and secrecy by West Bengal Governor R.N. Ravi on Saturday.

The new Ministers – Dilip Ghosh, Agnimitra Paul, Ashok Kirtania, Kshudiram Tudu, and Nisith Pramanik – represent different regions and different caste combinations aimed at social and geographic balance.

Mr. Adhikari is a Brahmin, Mr. Ghosh hails from the OBC community, Ms. Paul is a Kayastha, Mr. Kirtania is a prominent Matua face, and Mr. Tudu represents the tribal belt of Junglemahal. Mr. Pramanik is seen as an influential Rajbanshi leader from north Bengal.

Taking charge: Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulates West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari and members of the State Cabinet in Kolkata on Saturday. REUTERS

Mr. Ghosh, who was elected from Kharagpur Sadar, is a former West Bengal BJP president and one of the most vocal party leaders in the State. Under his leadership, the BJP had won 18 out of 42 Lok Sabha seats from West Bengal.

A fashion designer-turned-politician, Ms. Paul is a prominent woman face of the BJP and had become the party's voice both inside and outside the State Assembly from 2021 to 2016. She has been re-elected from the Asansol Dakshin Assembly seat.

Mr. Kirtania, who has been elected from Bongaon Uttar, is a representative of the Matuas, a community of Hindu namasudras which has overwhelmingly supported the BJP. All these Ministers represent south Bengal.

Tribal representative
As the tribal face in the State Cabinet, Mr. Tudu took his oath in the Santali language. He was elected from Ranibandh in the Bankura district.

Mr. Pramanik, who was the Cooch Behar MP from 2019 to 2024, won the Assembly election from Mathabhanga and is the Cabinet's only face from north Bengal.

Scope for expansion
Article 164(1A) of the Constitution mandates that the total number of Ministers, including the Chief Minister, cannot exceed 15% of the total number of members in the Legislative Assembly.

As there are 294 seats in the West Bengal Assembly, the highest number of Ministers that can be appointed is 44.

There is a lot of scope for expansion of the Council of Ministers, but a decision will be taken after the swearing-in of all the newly elected MLAs.

The BJP won 207 seats in the 294-member House, ending the 15-year rule of the Trinamool Congress and reducing it to just 80 seats.

People celebrate with sweets and colour as 'Kanthi's son' takes oath

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

Women cheer during the swearing-in ceremony of Suvendu Adhikari in Kolkata on Saturday. PTI

Kanthi, the hometown of Suvendu Adhikari in Purba Medinipur district, erupted in joy on Saturday as he was sworn in as the Chief Minister of West Bengal.

His parents and relatives thanked the people of the State for choosing "Kanthi's son" for the top post.

His father, Sisir Adhikari, said his son was the "correct choice" made by the people of the State, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and the BJP. "Medinipur has always made a massive contribution to the State's politics. My son has overcome many hurdles and led many movements. He is our pillar of support," said Mr. Sisir, a veteran politician. He said his son should serve the people wholeheartedly and focus on the development and growth of the State.

Massive celebrations were seen in Kanthi as local residents, neighbours, and relatives of Mr. Adhikari came out on the streets. People played with colours, had sweets, chanted *"Jai Shri Ram"* slogans, and blew conch shells. "Our dream has finally come true. We cannot describe our pride in words," a neighbour said.

Gayatri Adhikari, mother of Mr. Adhikari, said: "I am very happy, but the people of Bengal are happier than me." She asked her son to work for the poor and take steps to curb atrocities against women.

Family stronghold
The 57-year-old BJP leader comes from a family of politicians. His father started his political career in the Congress. He served as the Union Minister of State for Rural Development during the second United Progressive Alliance government and was the MP from Kanthi between 2009 and 2024. His two brothers, Dibyendu Adhikari and Soumendu Adhikari, are also active in politics. Together, the four members of the family have represented the Kanthi Lok Sabha constituency and the Kanthi Dakshin Assembly constituency for decades.

It is after almost six decades that the State has got a Chief Minister from the rural heartland.

The last four Chief Ministers – the Congress's Siddhartha Shankar Ray, the CPI(M)'s Jyoti Basu and Buddhadeb Bhattacharya, and Trinamool leader Mamata Banerjee – hailed from Kolkata.

A united platform against BJP must be created, says Mamata

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

Mamata Banerjee

Former West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee updated her social media bio on Saturday to "Founder Chairperson All India Trinamool Congress. Chief Minister of West Bengal (15th, 16th and 17th Vidhan Sabha)", even as the BJP's Suvendu Adhikari changed his bio to "Chief Minister of West Bengal".

This assumes significance as even after her electoral defeat, Ms. Banerjee had refused to turn in her resignation as the Chief Minister, which is the protocol. She lost the Bhabanipur Assembly seat by 15,115 votes to Mr. Adhikari, who was sworn in as the Chief Minister of the 18th Legislative Assembly of West Bengal on Saturday.

A day after the BJP's landslide victory in Bengal was declared on May 4, Ms. Banerjee held a press conference to say that there was no question of her resigning as she "did not lose the elections", and it was only a forcible attempt to defeat her.

However, her term officially came to an end on May 7, and Governor R.N. Ravi dissolved the 17th Legislative Assembly, bringing her 15-year rule to an end. The Trinamool chairperson had held the Chief Minister title since 2011, when she overthrew the 34-year-old Left Front rule in the State and assumed office.

United front
On Saturday, Ms. Banerjee urged Opposition parties across the country to present a united front, saying that this was the only way to fight the BJP. "A united platform can be created where all political parties that are against the BJP should unite. Along with the national parties, I would urge the Leftists and the ultra-Leftists to unite in Bengal as well as in Delhi," she said, during her speech celebrating Rabindranath Tagore's birthday at her home. She was allegedly denied permission to hold the celebrations publicly.

She also urged student bodies and NGOs to come together and organise a united front against the BJP and the "reign of terror they have unleashed". Ms. Banerjee added that she was available for further discussions on the matter if they desire. "It needs to be remembered that our first enemy is the BJP," she reiterated.

'Irregularities in polls'
Earlier, Trinamool general secretary Abhishek Banerjee questioned the credibility of the Election Commission of India. He accused the poll body of functioning in a "partisan" manner and alleged large-scale irregularities in the election process.

"Democratic institutions that are meant to function impartially appeared compromised, raising serious concerns about the fairness, credibility and transparency of the electoral process in West Bengal," he wrote on his social media profiles.

The Diamond Harbour MP also said that it was an extremely difficult election for the Trinamool as over 30 lakh voters were allegedly disenfranchised from the electoral rolls. Noting that the party had fought tooth and nail against the compromised poll body, he vowed to continue to stand by the people of the State.

The Trinamool Congress has chosen Ballygunge MLA Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay as the Leader of the Opposition.

Ministers, Ambassadors, and artists to join *The Hindu* Huddle in Bengaluru on June 5, 6

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

This year's *The Hindu* Huddle theme, "A World in Transition", reflects the rapid changes unfolding around us – from geopolitical shifts and artificial intelligence-driven disruptions to evolving ways of learning, communicating, working, and addressing mental health.

A marquee event of The Hindu Group, *The Hindu* Huddle will be held in Bengaluru on June 5 and 6. It brings together meaningful debates and conversations on this era of uncertainty, creating space for listening, reflection, and authentic exchange.

This edition will bring together leading Indian and global voices to discuss some of today's most important issues, including the role of regional parties in strengthening India's democracy, diplomacy in times of conflict, women's representation in Parliament, India and China's role in shaping a new global order, balancing ecological restoration with development, the use of chatbots in mental health, the influence of OTT platforms on acting careers, and the future of work.

Fruitful conversations
Speaking about this edition, Narayan Lakshman, Opinion Editor, *The Hindu*, and Curator, *The Hindu* Huddle, says, "*The Hindu* Huddle has already made a name for itself over four previous editions. Presented year on year in a cosmopolitan city like Bengaluru, and exemplifying *The Hindu's* contemporary spirit of journalistic inquiry, *The Hindu* Huddle is known for consistently bringing cutting-edge dialogues to our audiences, with experts from across the world engaging in fruitful conversations for change."

Speakers at *The Huddle* this year include Union Ministers Hardeep Singh Puri and Nitin Gadkari; Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah; former President of the Maldives, Mohamed Nasheed; Chief Economic Adviser Anantha Nageswaran; MPs Aparajita Sarangi, Thamizhachi Thangapandian, Sagarika Ghose, and Shrinkant Shinde; Chinese Ambassador Xu Feihong, EU Ambassador Hervé Delphin, Brazilian Ambassador Kenneth Felix Haszynzki da Nobrega, Australian High Commissioner Philip Green, and former Ambassador Nirupama Rao; artists and curators Seema Kohli, Shilo Suleman, Abhishek Poddar, and Ranvir Shah; and mental health advocates Amit Malik and Amrita Tripathi.

Like the previous edition, *The Hindu* is also taking The Huddle to the youth. Sessions have been curated specifically for young minds. In the run-up to the main event, *The Hindu* will be hosting mini-Huddles – thought-provoking discussions on topics that matter – across colleges in various cities.

As Mr. Lakshman says, "As a brand, we have stood firm through the vicissitudes of time and flux in the media ecosystem, to deliver a premium product that puts the interests of the reader, the viewer, and the listener above all else. The Hindu Huddle is back with a bang, and it will be an ideas conclave like no other."

The presenting partner for *The Hindu* Huddle is the Sami-Sabinsa Group.

Sheikh Hasina congratulates new Bengal Chief Minister

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Deposed Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina has congratulated the new Chief Minister of West Bengal, Suvendu Adhikari. In a message issued via Awami League officials, Ms. Hasina said on Saturday that Bangladesh always wished for prosperity and peace in West Bengal under the leadership of Mr. Adhikari.

"The verdict of the people of West Bengal is a clear reflection of their deep trust and admiration for Shri Suvendu Adhikari's strong and people-oriented leadership. West Bengal holds a unique place in the history of the sincere friendship between Bangladesh and India," Ms. Hasina said in a statement.

Parties are equal partners in INDIA bloc, says U.P. Congress president Ajay Rai

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

Under the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) in Uttar Pradesh, parties are equal partners and there are no smaller or larger partners, Uttar Pradesh Congress president Ajay Rai said on Saturday. "We are in an alliance and will unitedly defeat the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)," Mr. Rai told *The Hindu*.

"Any decision on behalf of the Congress will be taken by the high command. The Congress party is strengthening its organisation at the booth level in all 403 Assembly seats to defeat the BJP," Mr. Rai said, when asked whether "equal partners" meant the demand for equal sharing of seats during the Assembly election.

Ajay Rai

Mr. Rai's comment holds significance as Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav, on Friday, made a cryptic post on social media platform X. "We are not the ones who leave you in difficult times," Mr. Yadav said, along with a picture of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) leader and outgoing Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin. The Congress-DMK alliance came to an end after the Assembly election in Tamil Nadu.

The SP is the largest constituent of the INDIA bloc in Uttar Pradesh and will act as the fulcrum to defeat the BJP in U.P., Sunil Singh Yadav 'Sajan', the SP spokesperson said, adding that broader clarity prevails between the leadership of both parties on how, and what, was needed to defeat the BJP in U.P.

"Both Rahul Gandhi*ji* and Akhilesh Yadav*ji* have joint clarity on how winning each seat is necessary to defeat the BJP. The question is not about smaller or larger partner, the issue is which party is capable of defeating the BJP on a particular seat... With 37 MPs and over 100 MLAs, the SP's strength is tested and trusted. Unitedly with our partners, we will defeat the BJP," Mr. Sajan said.

Rahul slams Bihar govt. over police action against protesting teacher aspirants

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Saturday took a dig at the Bihar government over a police baton-charge on aspirants protesting against the delay in notifying the BPSC TRE-4 examination.

In a post on X, Mr. Gandhi said that when the youth hit the streets to demand their rights, they are not given jobs in their hands, instead, lathis are rained down on their backs. He further said that India's youth are fed up with the Bharatiya Janata Party's lies. On Friday, a large number of teacher aspirants gathered at JP Roundabout and headed towards the office of the Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC), demanding the notification for the TRE-4 recruitment.

Rahul Gandhi

During this incident, the police carried out a baton-charge, in which several aspirants, including women candidates, sustained injuries. The aspirants alleged that the notification was not released as per the scheduled date, leaving the future of thousands of candidates in the darkness.

"Yesterday in Patna, teacher aspirants who were peacefully protesting for their right to employment were brutally beaten by the Bihar Police – again. BJP's response to unemployed youth: Lathis. Unemployment is the biggest disease in India today, and its most devastating impact is falling on the youth of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh," he said in the post.

"Millions of youths, holding degrees and skills in hand, are wandering from door to door. But the BJP government neither cares for them nor for you. When youth take to the streets to demand their rights, they are not given jobs in their hands – instead, lathis are rained down on their backs. India's youth are fed up with the BJP's lies – they will no longer stay silent, and the Congress stands with them," he added.

INBRIEF

Delhi HC protects personality rights of Shashi Tharoor

The Delhi High Court has protected the "personality rights" of Congress leader Shashi Tharoor, observing that the MP is a "respected and recognised public figure" who enjoys rights over all facets of his personality. In an order passed on May 8, Justice Mini Pushkarna restrained various persons and entities from reproducing, misappropriating, or imitating any facet of Mr Tharoor's persona including his visual likeness and image, distinct voice, signature oratorical cadence and manner of speaking, and highly refined vocabulary.

CBI facilitates return of fugitive from Portugal

The CBI has facilitated the extradition from Portugal of an accused wanted in multiple cases by the Haryana police. In coordination with the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Home Affairs, Abhay, alias Abhay Rana, was extradited to India on Saturday. He is allegedly part of an organised crime syndicate and faces charges of attempted murder and issuing death threats. According to the CBI, the accused and his associates allegedly threatened local businessmen through social media platforms, including WhatsApp calls, demanding ransom payments. Those failing to comply were allegedly assaulted by members of the syndicate.

CBI searches 17 locations in Reliance ADA Group cases

The CBI on Saturday searched 17 premises in Mumbai in connection with three cases registered against Reliance ADA Group companies Reliance Telecom Ltd., Reliance Commercial Finance Ltd. and Reliance Home Finance Ltd., and their directors. "Searches have also revealed that multiple intermediary companies were operating from the same address," it said. Over the past few months, the CBI has registered seven cases against the Group entities, based on the complaints lodged by various banks and LIC in connection with alleged frauds involving thousands of crores of rupees. The total quantum of alleged loss in these cases is ₹27,337 crore, it said.

ED arrests three accused in DJW-SEPL loan case

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested three accused in a case alleging that DJW Electric Power Projects Private Limited fraudulently took loans from various entities. Those arrested have been identified as two company directors, Dandamudi Venkateswara Rao and D. Shanthi Kiran, and Mr. Rao's brother D. Avanindra Kumar. The ED had secured their custody till May 12 from the court concerned. The agency has alleged laundering of about ₹284 crore in the matter. Its investigation is based on a case registered by the police in Gurugram, against DJW Electric Power Project. The total loan amount involved in the alleged fraud was about ₹58 crore.

SUDOKU

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	8	2	4	9	5	1	6	3
3	9	4	2	6	1	5	8	7
1	6	5	3	8	7	2	4	9
6	1	9	5	2	8	3	7	4
2	3	7	6	1	4	8	9	5
4	5	8	7	3	9	6	1	2
8	7	1	9	5	2	4	3	6
9	2	6	8	4	3	7	5	1
5	4	3	1	7	6	9	2	8

Centre operationalises Labour Codes, publishes Rules; trade unions protest

The Codes will replace 29 labour laws that governed provisions, including wages, social security, working hours, retirement benefits, and trade union rights; officials maintain the Rules have been published with 'minor amendments' to the draft rules pre-published in December 2025

A. M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

In over 30 gazette notifications issued on Friday and Saturday, the Union government fully operationalised the four Labour Codes.

Officials maintained that the rules had been published with "minor amendments" to the draft rules pre-published in December 2025.

The government had announced the implementation of the four Labour Codes from November 21, 2025. With the notification of the Rules, the Codes will replace 29 labour laws that governed provisions, including wages, social security, working hours, retirement benefits, and trade union rights.

Soon after the publication of Rules, members of 10 central trade unions held protests across the country, burning copies of it. The Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh said it was studying the Rules and would soon come up with a comment on them.

Protesters called for the withdrawal of Labour Codes at a recent rally in Delhi. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

The Opposition parties alleged that the publication was a direct attack on the rights of workers.

All stakeholders had been given one month's time to submit responses on the draft Rules, a senior government functionary said.

"We have gone through all the responses and considered some of the suggestions, and amended the Rules accordingly," the official said, adding that the amendments were minor.

Minimum wages

On the controversial subject of minimum wages, the Rules of the Code on Wages said the criteria shall be separately specified by the Union government by a special or general order, and the rate of wages for a day is fixed, and "such amount shall be divided by eight for fixing the rate of wages for an hour and multiplied by twenty six for fixing the rate of wages for a month..."

For fixing the floor wage, the Union government, according to the Rules, may consult a Central Advisory Board, taking into account the minimum living standard, including food, clothing, housing, and any other factors considered appropriate by the Union government from time to time. The number of hours of work for a normal working day "for an employee whose wage period is on a daily basis" shall be eight hours. For other employees, the total number of weekly working hours shall not exceed 48 hours. The Rules mandate that every employer shall issue wage slips, electronically or in physical form to the employees.

The Rules for Code on Social Security changes 12 rules, including the Employees' State Insurance (Central) Rules, 1950 and the Employees' Provident Funds Appellate Tribunal (Conditions of Service) Rules, 1997.

The Code on Industrial Relations says where there is only one registered trade union operating in an industrial establishment having its membership not less than 30% of the total workers employed in the industrial establishment, the employer of such industrial establishment shall recognise such trade union as the sole negotiating union of the workers. Commenting on the Rule, senior leader of Centre of Indian Trade Unions R. Karumalaiyan said the Union government had ignored the amendments moved by the CTUs.

"We had submitted amendments seeking clarity on working hours, trade union rights, minimum wages, floor wages, and protection of social security. This government has ignored all our suggestions, forcing us to go on protests," Mr. Karumalaiyan said.

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) said in a statement that the Union government "deceptively waited" till the Assembly election in four States and a Union Territory were over before notifying the Rules. "Within just four days after the announcement of results, they have now operationalised the Labour Codes. This exposes the deceptive modus operandi of the BJP-led Union government," the CPI(M) said, urging States to reject the Rules.

Tiger sighted in Arunachal wildlife sanctuary after nearly two decades

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

A tiger has been photographed by a camera trap in Arunachal Pradesh's D'Ering Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary for the first time in almost two decades, bringing cheers to wildlife enthusiasts, conservationists, and officials.

The 190-sq. km sanctuary near Pasighat, the East Siang district headquarters, was believed to have lost the species years ago. The first-ever camera-trap photograph of the striped cat has established its return to the protected area.

The sanctuary is named after Daying Ering, a former Union Minister and chairman of the Ering Commission, which influenced the Panchayati Raj system in India.

Kempi Ete, the Divisional Forest Officer, said forest officials and frontline staff documented indirect signs of tiger presence over the past year. Multiple rounds of systematic monitoring and camera trapping were undertaken to verify these observations.

The image of the tiger captured in a camera trap inside the D'Ering Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Although earlier efforts yielded no photographic evidence, monitoring continued with renewed intensity and persistence. In the latest phase of surveys, camera traps installed at strategic locations successfully captured images of a tiger, conclusively establishing its presence in the landscape.

The surveys, conducted with technical support from the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), also recorded other animals, including the critically endangered Chinese pangolin and the endangered hispid hare.

"The return of the tiger after nearly two decades reflects the resilience of the ecosystem and the cumulative impact of sustained conservation efforts on the ground. This achievement belongs equally to our forest officials, frontline staff, Eco-Development Committee members and the community-based organisations that have continuously supported conservation initiatives in the landscape," Ms. Ete said.

Local MLA Oken Tayeng said that the tiger's return indicated a "healthy sign" and improving ecological conditions in the sanctuary. He stated it could improve tourism prospects and create employment opportunities for youth living in fringe villages around the protected area.

Focus on mental and emotional well-being of new mothers: doctors

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

While caring for the newborn and physical recovery of the new mother is important, it is equally critical to focus on the mental and emotional well-being of every woman post-delivery, doctors at a webinar said.

While discussing postpartum care for mothers at a webinar, which is part of *The Hindu's* wellness series and presented by Kauvery Hospital to mark Mothers' Day, doctors from the hospital said the mental health of new mothers is often overlooked in Indian households even though a majority of women face postpartum depression. Childbirth is not the end of care for a woman but the beginning of a journey that requires emotional adjustments due to hormonal changes.

"The moment the baby is born, attention shifts to the newborn. The multiple challenges the mother could be facing is rarely given attention," said K. Thendral, clinical lead and senior consultant, obstetrics and gynaecology, Kauvery Hospital. She said the post-partum phase often comes with transformations due to hormonal changes, and the woman goes through joy and love, exhaustion and uncertainty, all at the same time. It leads to heightened anxiety and stress due to expectations, pressure of breastfeeding, and sleep deprivation, Dr. Thendral noted.

Lactating period is beneficial for both the mother and the child, but if women develop painful, red, and swollen breasts, headache, breathing difficulty, fever, and suffer heavy bleeding and foul-smelling discharge, they should report to the gynaecologist, she said.

'Family support crucial'

P. Sathya Sudhakar, consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist, Kauvery Hospital, Salem, said serious mood disorder, loss of identity, feeling of isolation, and stress that affect most mothers in the first few days are not signs of weakness. "It is natural to have baby blues. Supportive and understanding families can help in treating the symptoms," she said. Support strategies, including early identification of post-partum symptoms, a supportive network, and professional help, can make a difference, she observed. She warned that serious problems can arise if common symptoms, like feeling of emptiness and worthlessness, involuntary crying, irritability, fatigue, loss of interest in activities, and difficulty in bonding with the baby, persist.

Manjeswari G., psychologist and sexual health therapist, Maa Kauvery, Trichy, said the mental load of motherhood makes intimacy feel different. It is natural for parents to feel overwhelmed after childbirth, and mothers should be emotionally supported, mentally cared for, sexually respected, and gently empowered. She said women could be facing vaginal dryness, low sexual desire, and emotional disconnect. "Instead of judging her, the family needs to understand her," she maintained. She recommended yoga and pelvic floor exercises for postpartum fitness.

'Dragonfly, damselfly species missing in the Western Ghats'

Snehal Mutha
MUMBAI

A recent study has revealed an "alarming gap" in biodiversity across the Western Ghats, with researchers able to document only about 65% of the dragonfly and damselfly species historically recorded in the region, pointing to a potential shortfall of nearly 35% of these ecologically critical insects.

The survey recorded 143 odonata species – 76 dragonflies and 67 damselflies – of which 40 were endemic to the Western Ghats. The study was carried out across 144 sites spanning five States, namely, Maharashtra, Kerala, Karnataka, Goa, and Gujarat between February 2021 and March 2023.

Three species – *Elattoneura souteri*, *Protosticta sanguinostigma*, and *Cyclogomphus ypsilon* – are currently classified as vulnerable, while most of the observed species fall under the "data deficient" and "not evaluated" categories on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species, indicating significant gaps in scientific understanding.

Emphasising the urgency of expanding research, Pankaj Koparde, Assistant Professor, MIT-World Peace University Pune, said, "This study is a result of one of the most extensive Odonata surveys across the Ghats. Our surveys could recover only 65% of the known Odonata fauna of the Ghats, indicating plausible loss of species and habitats."

The Western Ghats is a 1,600-km mountain chain along India's west coast and a globally recognised biodiversity hotspot. The survey team, headed by Professor Koparde, suggests the Odonata species are highly sensitive to environmental changes as they depend on freshwater ecosystems for reproduction, and are widely regarded as "indicator taxa," meaning their presence, or absence, directly reflects the ecological health of water bodies. So, the missing species may be early indicators of deeper ecological stress.

The study was carried out across 144 sites spanning five States. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

The study claimed there are multiple threats across the Western Ghats, including linear infrastructure development, hydropower projects, severe pollution, large-scale land-use changes, unregulated tourism, recurring forest fires, and growing impact of climate change which is further fragmenting and degrading these ecosystems.

Key findings

According to the IUCN Red List, of the 143 recorded species, 100 species are classified as 'Least Concern,' 22 species as "data deficient" and 16 as "not evaluated". Two species fall in the "near threatened" category, while two others are listed under "vulnerable" category.

The presence of 22 species listed under "data deficient" category suggests the need for extensive surveys across the Western Ghats to uncover the status and distribution of many lesser known species.

The study also uncovers the richness of Odonata species in several localities across the five States, many of which were previously unexplored. The findings demonstrate that the diversity and degree of endemism are greater in the southern Western Ghats compared to the northern part of the region. This can largely be attributed to the availability of suitable microhabitats and perennial streams in the southern Western Ghats.

INBRIEF

Malhotra urged to intervene to correct promotion policy

The RBI officers' union has written a letter to RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra, seeking his intervention to correct the promotion policy and restore a time-bound system. RBI officers across various regional offices and the central bank's headquarters in Mumbai staged protests on Friday against recent policy changes that link promotions to vacancy availability, replacing the earlier time-bound promotion system. Reserve Bank of India Officers' Association (RBIOA), in a letter dated May 8, expressed disappointment and anguish over the decision of the central bank to proceed with the revised promotion policy without adequately considering the serious concerns, objections, and constructive suggestions repeatedly placed by the association on behalf of the officer community. PTI

CCI orders probe into liquor giant Pernod's dealings

The CCI on Friday ordered an investigation into French liquor group Pernod Ricard over alleged exclusive deals with retailers to promote its brands at the expense of rivals, a regulatory order showed. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has been reviewing allegations since 2024 that Pernod, whose brands include Chivas Regal and Absolut vodka, colluded with retailers in New Delhi to boost its market share. The complaint alleges that Pernod provided $24 million in corporate guarantees to its bankers in 2021 to help city retailers secure loans, with retailers in turn ensuring 35% of the stock in their shops comprised Pernod brands. The CCI said it found merit in the allegations, noting in its order that "the non-dealing in the product of the competitors ... is likely to result in distortion of demand by way of moving retail demand away from the competing brands." Pernod told *Reuters* it "unequivocally denies any wrongdoing".

FPIs' stake in Indian equities hits 14-year low

FPIs were net sellers in Indian equities in four of the five trading sessions during the week ended May 8; on an aggregate basis, combining stock exchange and primary market flows, FPI equity outflows for the week stood at ₹14,207.20 crore; weekly trend reflects a broader structural shift

Anupama Ghosh
MUMBAI

Foreign portfolio investors' (FPIs) share in Indian equities has fallen to a nearly 14-year low, even as domestic institutions have quietly emerged as the market's largest stakeholder – a structural shift unfolding alongside another week of sustained foreign selling.

As per NSDL data, FPIs were net sellers in Indian equities in four of the five trading sessions during the week ended May 8.

On Monday, they pulled out ₹8,035.69 crore through stock exchanges. Tuesday offered brief respite, with FPIs turning net buyers worth ₹2,969.02 crore. Selling resumed on Wednesday with outflows of ₹3,399.03 crore, followed by the week's steepest single-day sell-off on Thursday at ₹5,697.61 crore. By Friday, selling had nearly tapered off, with net outflows narrowing sharply to ₹69.31 crore, as gross purchases of ₹18,514.38 crore almost matched gross sales of ₹18,583.69 crore. On an aggregate basis – combining stock exchange and primary market flows – FPI equity outflows for the week stood at ₹14,207.20 crore. The weekly trend reflects a broader structural shift.

FPI ownership in Indian equities has dropped to 14.7%

According to JM Financial's monthly tracker for April 2026, FPI ownership in Indian equities has dropped to 14.7% – the lowest since June 2012 – from 19.9% a decade ago. In contrast, Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) now hold 18.9% of Indian equities, overtaking FPIs for the first time since December 2024 and steadily widening the gap. V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Investments Ltd., said, "This takes the total FPI sell figure through exchanges in 2026, so far, to ₹2,18,540 crore," he said, while noting that primary market investment by FPIs has remained resilient, with "total investment of ₹12,340 crore, so far, this year." N. ArunaGiri, CEO of TrustLine Holdings, said, "At a time when Korea received nearly $4 billion and Taiwan around $5.5 billion in flows, India is still not getting its due share of emerging market allocations. This clearly indicates that FIIs currently do not find India as attractive from an allocation perspective," he said.

The impact, he added, is visible in market behaviour. "Large caps have relatively underperformed, while strong domestic flows have continued to support the SMID segment." Analysts said India's underperformance in attracting foreign flows is partly structural.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

Growers seek status quo on import duty on natural rubber

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

The United Planters' Association of Southern India (UPASI) has urged the government to maintain status quo on the import duty on natural rubber as a section of the rubber user industry has sought reduction of the import duty on key inputs and raw materials.

Ajoy Thipaiah, the association's president, said in a statement that the rubber plantation sector sustains nearly 13.2 lakh growers and provides employment to about 4.2 lakh workers.

India presently has about 9.4 lakh hectares under natural rubber cultivation and the production in FY26 is estimated at approximately nine lakh tonnes.

Domestic rubber prices have shown a "modest upward trend" in recent months

The domestic rubber prices have shown a "modest upward trend" in recent months due to geopolitical developments and production shortages both globally and domestically.

However, Indian rubber prices remained subdued in comparison with international prices over the last two years. The prices of major inputs such as fertilisers, plant protection chemicals, and skilled labour have increased at 8-12% over the past decade.

Santosh Kumar, chairman, Rubber Committee of the Association, added that imports of natural rubber and compound rubber have increased considerably over the years. Of particular concern is the growing share of compound rubber imports, accounting for nearly 40% of total rubber imports. Most of this is imported from ASEAN countries duty free, he said.

From a garage venture to an industry bellwether: Biocon under Kiran Shaw

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Biocon founder and chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw's recent announcement of a phased, five-year succession plan, involving naming her niece, Claire Mazumdar, as her successor marked a pivotal generational leadership shift for the enterprise she founded in 1978 in Bengaluru and eventually emerged as a bellwether of the Indian biotechnology industry.

The succession announcement came alongside a significant corporate restructuring at Biocon, including the merger of its generics and biologics businesses under a single platform. Biocon had earlier said, by March 31, 2026, it would be integrating its generics and biosimilars businesses into a unified global biopharma platform to accelerate growth and simplify its structure and streamline its product offerings. This move was aimed to consolidate Biocon Biologics into the parent company increasing the focus on diabetes, oncology, and immunology. Other areas of Mazumdar-Shaw's focus included: cancer therapeutics, biologics, immunotherapy, novel drug discovery and affordable insulin and diabetes care, apart from nanotechnology, precision medicine and translational research.

As a precursor to the gradual succession plan, Mazumdar-Shaw appointed Shreehas Tambe as CEO and Managing Director in April 2026 to strengthen leadership at Biocon during the transition. While maintaining a strategic vision and ensuring close family presence in the business, through niece, Claire.

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw

It may be recalled that the Bengaluru-based biotech entrepreneur in an X post indicated that her niece, was expected to eventually take over as chairperson of Biocon, and she was preparing for a gradual leadership transition plan that would roll for the next five years. Thirty-seven-year-old Claire, is currently the founding chief executive of Bicara Therapeutics, a Nasdaq-listed, biotech firm incubated by Biocon. She is the daughter of Ravi Mazumdar, brother of Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, and Catherine Rosenberg. Claire holds degrees from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Stanford University, including a PhD in cancer biology.

According to industry observers, Mazumdar-Shaw's move towards leadership transition would certainly have broader implications for the biotech industry, a space that she invented, dominated and has led as well.

Brewing to biotech

Rasendra Mazumdar, a brewmaster at United Breweries, introduced his daughter, Kiran, to fermentation science, quite a strange career choice for Indian women in the 1970s. After the completion of malting and brewing courses in Australia, she returned to India to discover breweries were not hiring woman brewmasters.

The seed for Biocon started evolving from this experience and in 1978, at 25, in partnership with Ireland's Biocon Biochemicals, she started Biocon in her garage in Bengaluru with a modest initial capital of just ₹10,000.

Even during the late '90s, no media person who met her missed her stories about her entrepreneurial struggles for capital, bank loans and permissions. Banks were reluctant to lend to women entrepreneurs back then. However, later on, she became successful through lobbying with the Karnataka government and receiving KIADB land to set up Biocon ventures, research infrastructure, Biocon Park, healthcare infrastructure etc. She also runs the Mazumdar Shaw Cancer Center in Bengaluru.

She has tried hard to convince successive governments in the State to make them understand how biotechnology as an industry was unique, unlike IT, and required long-term thinking and quality infrastructure for research for it to take off.

Mazumdar-Shaw's start-up venture Biocon, after multiple decades of struggle, has truly emerged as the country's bellwether of the biotechnology industry and became a global player in biosimilars manufacturing.

Under Kiran's leadership, Biocon evolved in phases from enzymes and fermentation capabilities in the 1980s and '90s, biopharmaceuticals, insulin, statins and novel biologics in 2000s, biosimilars, oncology and advanced biologics from 2010 onwards.

Biocon today claims to be the leading global biosimilars company, with over 30 biosimilars and 12 commercially launched products across insulin, oncology and immunology in the US, Europe and other markets.

Biocon triggered a bioeconomy boom in Karnataka. Indeed, Mazumdar-Shaw's outspoken nature and relentless advocacy for biocon and biotechnology industry has also helped Bengaluru emerge as a significant biotech hub. She has been a member of the State's Vision Group on Biotechnology.

According to the State's IT and BT Minister Priyank Kharge, Karnataka's bioeconomy is valued at $39.2 billion as of March 2026, representing about 21% of India's total bioeconomy and contributes over 10% to the State's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). The state's bioeconomy grew by 26.5% between 2023 and 2025 and it is adding nearly $10 billion every quarter to the State's economy.

Karnataka has an ambitious target of growing its bio-economy to $100 billion by 2030. To achieve this, the sector needs a Compounded Annual Growth Rate of 19%, said minister Kharge.

Fourth quarter results

Biocon on Thursday reported a sharp year-on-year fall of 63% in its fourth-quarter net profit to ₹126 crore.

It said, despite growth in core businesses, the company incurred an exceptional charge of ₹80 crore in Q4 towards business integration and included the impact of the new labour codes.

Techno Sportswear to expand to Odisha

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

Activewear manufacturer Techno Sportswear, which has manufacturing facilities in Tiruppur and Erode districts of Tamil Nadu, will expand to Odisha, said its MD and co-founder Sunil Jhunjhunwala.

The company received $25 million in private equity from A91 Partners in May 2024. It had invested in plants in Perundurai and Vijayamangalam under the Production Linked Intensive Scheme of the Central Government and manufactures 25 tonnes of fabric a day. "We clocked ₹600 crore topline in 2025-2026 and are looking at ₹1,000 crore this year," he said. The company has invested during the last couple of years to have an integrated production facility. It has set up a polyester filment yarn knitting and fabric processing facility in Perundurai and a garment unit at Vijayamangalam.

"We have signed an MoU with the Odisha government. The State has a port, workforce, and raw material availability. We are looking at starting a garmenting unit there," he said. While the company is expanding its domestic presence through online and offline retailing, it has also registered its brand in more than two dozen countries. It wants to strengthen its production and tap the export potential initially in the West and South East Asian countries, he said.

Employing about 2,000 people, Techno Sportswear has 51 own stores and will add another 80 this fiscal, said CEO Puspen Maity.

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, गोरखपुर
All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Gorakhpur
(स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय भारत सरकार द्वारा स्थापित एक स्वायत्त निकाय)
(An autonomous organization under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India)

Last date of online Receipt of Application: 08/06/2026 **Dated: 09/05/2026**

FACULTY APPOINTMENTS
Professor/Additional Professor/Associate Professor/Assistant Professor

Offline applications from eligible Indian citizens/other citizens as permissible under the applicable Act/Rules are invited to fill up following faculty posts in All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh):

Sr. No	Subject	Professor	Additional Professor	Associate Professor	Assistant Professor
1.	Anaesthesia	01 (OBC)	01 (OBC)	-	02 (01-SC, 01-OBC)
2.	Biochemistry	01 (ST)	-	-	-
3.	Cardiology	01 (UR)	-	01 (OBC)	-
4.	Cardiothoracic Surgery	-	-	02 (UR)	01 (SC)
5.	Dermatology	-	01 (OBC)	-	01 (OBC)
6.	ENT	01 (SC)	01 (SC)	01 (ST)	-
7.	Forensic Medicine and Toxicology	01 (OBC)	-	-	-
8.	Gastroenterology (Medical)	01 (EWS)	-	02 (01-OBC, 01-UR)	01 (OBC)
9.	General Medicine	01 (UR)	-	02 (01-UR, 01-SC)	04 (03- EWS, 01- OBC)
10.	General Surgery	01 (01-SC)	-	-	-
11.	Hospital Administration	01 (UR)	-	02 (01-OBC, 01-UR)	-
12.	Medical Oncology	-	-	-	01 (OBC)
13.	Microbiology	01 (ST)	01 (OBC)	-	-
14.	Neonatology	-	-	-	01 (ST)
15.	Nephrology	-	01 (UR)	02 (01-SC, 01-EWS)	01 (UR)
16.	Neurology	-	-	02 (01-OBC, 01-UR)	01 (SC)
17.	Neurosurgery	-	-	01 (01-ST)	-
18.	Nuclear Medicine	01 (OBC)	01 (OBC)	01 (UR)	01 (OBC)
19.	Obstetrics and Gynaecology	-	-	01 (01-ST)	-
20.	Ophthalmology	01 (EWS)	01 (UR)	-	-
21.	Orthopaedics	-	-	01 (UR)	-
22.	Paediatrics	-	01 (OBC)	-	-
23.	Pathology	01 (SC)	01 (SC)	-	-
24.	Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation	01 (UR)	-	-	-
25.	Physiology	-	-	01 (OBC)	-
26.	Psychiatry	01 (OBC)	01 (UR)	-	-
27.	Pulmonary Medicine	-	-	01 (SC)	01 (UR)
28.	Radiology	-	01 (OBC)	02 (01-UR, 01-OBC)	04 (02-OBC, 01-SC, 01-ST)
29.	Radiotherapy	01 (SC)	01 (UR)	01 (UR)	-
30.	Surgical Gastroenterology	-	-	02 (01-ST, 01-EWS)	01 (OBC)
31.	Surgical Oncology	-	-	-	01 (UR)
32.	Transfusion Medicine and Blood Bank	01 (OBC)	-	01 (UR)	01 (OBC)
33.	Trauma and Emergency Medicine	-	-	-	03 (01-UR, 01-SC, 01-ST)
34.	Urology	01 (EWS)	-	02 (01-UR, 01-SC)	-
Total		**18**	**12**	**28**	**25**
Grand Total		**83**			

Note: 7 Seats (1-Professor, 1- Additional Professor, 2- Associate professor & 3- Assistant Professor) are Horizontally reserved for PwBD Candidates.
The above vacancies are provisional and subject to variation. The Executive Director, AIIMS, Gorakhpur reserves the right to change the number of the vacancies including reserved vacancies as per the Govt. of India rules/circulars. **Application form along with department wise details of seats, reservation, terms and conditions etc. of the various posts are available on institute's website www.aiimsgorakhpur.edu.in**
All the applicants are advised to check AIIMS, Gorakhpur website www.aiimsgorakhpur.edu.in on regular basis for any further updates.

SD/-
Executive Director
AIIMS, Gorakhpur

Uttarakhand flood maps may be underestimating risk, study warns

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Flood hazard assessments for Uttarakhand have routinely underestimated the danger to its towns and villages because they have leaned on long-term average rainfall figures rather than the extreme downpours that actually trigger disasters, according to a study in *Current Science*. The findings arrive at a moment when the Himalayan State is grappling with what climate scientists describe as a sharpening pattern of cloudbursts, glacial lake outbursts, and flash floods.

The study, led by researchers at the Malaviya National Institute of Technology, Jaipur, tracked how flood hazard zones have intensified in 2017-2021. Areas classified as 'high' or 'severe hazard' zones rose noticeably over that period, with 2021 showing the largest extent of 'high-hazard' land. Across all the years examined, more than 90% of Uttarakhand fell within moderate or high-hazard categories.

The researchers mapped flood hazard zones the State using a Geographic Information System), a popular digital mapping technology used by planners everywhere. They combined six factors to assess where floods are most likely: elevation, slope, drainage density, topographic wetness, land use, and rainfall. Each factor was assigned a weight reflecting its influence on flooding. Slope, elevation, and rainfall were judged the most important; land use, drainage density, and wetness were treated as secondary.

The map was then drawn once using the highest rainfall recorded in a given year and once using the average of those annual peaks across three decades. The contrast was stark. When the heaviest yearly rainfall was used, severe and high-hazard zones expanded across the State. When long-term averages were used instead, those zones appeared to shrink. The authors argued that conventional methods relying on average values may give planners a false sense of safety.

Risky terrain

The findings carry weight in a State that has witnessed a series of catastrophes over the last two decades, from the Malpa landslide of 1998 and the Kedarnath disaster of 2013, in which Uttarakhand received 375% of its benchmark monsoon rainfall, to the Chamoli flood of 2021. Climate scientists have linked the rising frequency of extreme rainfall in the Himalayas to a warming atmosphere. Built-up areas, the study noted, have also expanded across the State, leaving less land able to absorb sudden runoff. The authors recommend flood maps be redrawn around extreme rainfall scenarios rather than long-term averages, and that buffer zones be created around the most vulnerable terrain.

Hope for pancreatic cancer as new drug shows promise

Pancreatic cancer has been one of medicine's most unforgiving challenges, often offering little time and few options; new results from a phase 3 trial suggest daraxonrasib could be a 'game changer' with mild to moderate side-effects

Arun Panchapakesan

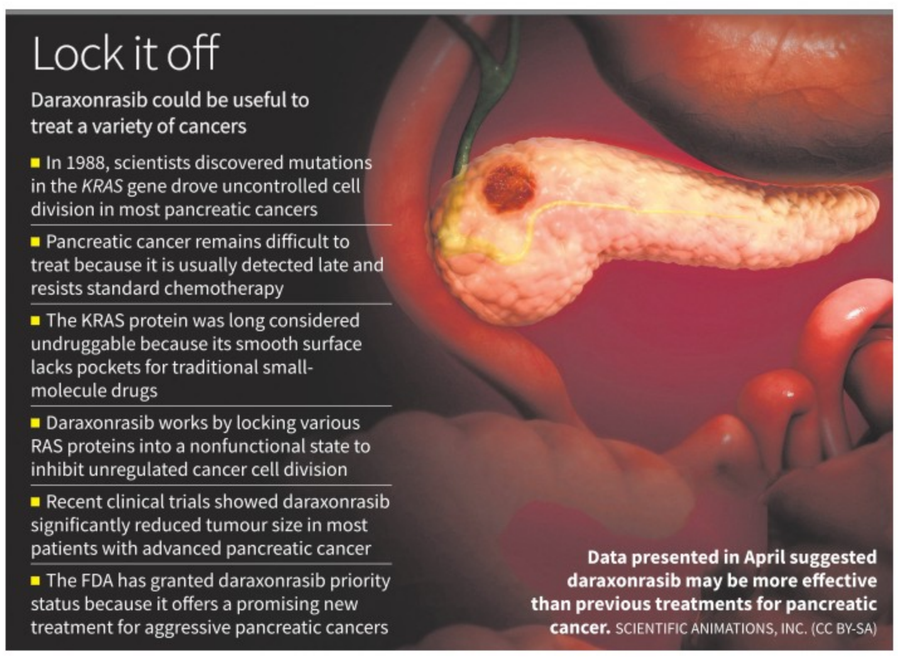
In 1988, a landmark paper in *Cell* said that in around 95% of pancreatic cancers, a gene called *KRAS* carried mutations at a particular location. It was one of the first demonstrations of a mutation with near-universal frequency identified in a cancer.

Cancer is uncontrolled cell division. In a healthy individual, cells grow and divide in a tightly controlled cycle, with specific signals telling the cell when to divide or not. If something goes amiss in this process, cells can repair themselves or undergo programmed cell death. In cancer, this balance is disturbed, causing unregulated cell division. As a result, mistakes tend to accumulate in the DNA, leading to tumours that can invade surrounding tissues and spread to other organs.

The 1988 *Cell* paper showed the *KRAS* gene acts as a switch, regulating whether a cell divides. The KRAS protein – the product of the gene – exists in either an 'off' state, which suppresses cell division or an 'on' state that promotes it. The mutations reported in the study locked KRAS in its 'on' state, driving uncontrolled cell division, leading to pancreatic, colorectal, and lung cancers.

Pancreatic cancer is particularly deadly because it is usually detected late, when the disease has already spread to neighbouring tissues.

There are very few surgical options; even after surgery, recurrence is common. Standard chemotherapy is also not very effective.


Lock it off
Daraxonrasib could be useful to treat a variety of cancers
In 1988, scientists discovered mutations in the KRAS gene drove uncontrolled cell division in most pancreatic cancers
Pancreatic cancer remains difficult to treat because it is usually detected late and resists standard chemotherapy
The KRAS protein was long considered undruggable because its smooth surface lacks pockets for traditional small-molecule drugs
Daraxonrasib works by locking various RAS proteins into a nonfunctional state to inhibit unregulated cancer cell division
Recent clinical trials showed daraxonrasib significantly reduced tumour size in most patients with advanced pancreatic cancer
The FDA has granted daraxonrasib priority status because it offers a promising new treatment for aggressive pancreatic cancers
Data presented in April suggested daraxonrasib may be more effective than previous treatments for pancreatic cancer. SCIENTIFIC ANIMATIONS, INC. (CC BY-SA)

For decades, the medical fraternity considered KRAS to be an attractive drug target. However, it proved exceptionally difficult to inhibit because most small-molecule drugs work by fitting into well-defined pockets or grooves on a protein's surface, blocking its activity, whereas KRAS has a relatively smooth, compact surface with few binding sites.

Despite this difficulty, several research groups attempted to target the *KRAS* gene, but nearly all efforts fared poorly in clinical trials. As a result, KRAS was long labelled "undruggable".

In June 2024, a California-based company called Revolution Medicines reported a molecule later called daraxonrasib. It works by targeting a range of the RAS family of proteins, including KRAS, when they are in their 'on' state and signalling the cell to divide. Daraxonrasib first binds to another protein called cyclophilin-A, then locking it with KRAS into a nonfunctional state.

Since daraxonrasib inhibits multiple RAS variants, it could be useful to treat a variety of cancers.

In a phase 1/2 clinical trial, researchers evaluated daraxonrasib for safety and its ability to shrink tumours in patients with advanced cancers driven by RAS mutations. Results from these tests were encouraging enough for the drug to move forward into a phase 3 trial, where investigators tested daraxonrasib's actual effectiveness.

These results were presented at a meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research in April. The findings suggested daraxonrasib may be more effective than previous treatments for pancreatic cancer. In 51% of patients, it reduced the size of tumours, and in 97% it caused their cancers to either shrink or not grow further.

However, daraxonrasib also had many side effects. Nearly all patients experienced mild to moderate effects, including skin rash, diarrhoea, mouth sores, nausea, and fatigue. However, importantly, no life-threatening side-effects were reported in any patients.

While the peer-reviewed data are still awaited, the early results have generated considerable excitement in the cancer research community. Many researchers are already calling daraxonrasib a potential "game changer", particularly for cancers like pancreatic cancer, where treatment options are limited.

The strong clinical results have also led the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to include daraxonrasib among eight other therapies in the first-ever group of drugs to receive "National Priority Voucher" status. The FDA created this designation for highly promising drug candidates that address urgent national health needs.

The voucher also allows the FDA to shorten what would typically be a year-long review process to just one or two months. The results of the FDA review are awaited as well, and there is growing optimism that it will be positive. Meanwhile, the FDA has also given Revolution Medicines 'expanded access' to use daraxonrasib with patients who lack other treatment options.

For many decades, pancreatic cancer has stood as one of medicine's most unforgiving challenges, often offering little time, few options, and even less hope. Today, that narrative may finally be beginning to change. For a scientist, daraxonrasib is not a cure in the real sense of the word, at least not yet – but for patients and their families around the world, it is a long-awaited ray of hope.

(Arun Panchapakesan is an assistant professor at the Y.R. Gaitonde Centre for AIDS Research and Education, Chennai)

Do you need a paid AI subscription plan?

DECODED

John Xavier

For a section of people, their monthly subscription budget got a new line item. The AI tools they once experimented with for free are now costing them money. And they now scroll past monthly billing reminders with the same resignation they once reserved for streaming services.

OpenAI, Anthropic, Google, Mistral, and xAI – each has its own price ladder, and its own gentle suggestion that the free version is merely a waiting room. But is the lobby experience good enough for most people? Every major AI platform has converged on roughly $20 a month for its entry paid tier – ChatGPT Plus, Claude Pro, and Google AI Pro have all landed at this price with almost eerie synchrony. Mistral undercuts them at $14.99. SuperGrok goes the other direction at $30, and if you want Grok's frontier multi-agent system, that's $300. Above $20, ChatGPT and Claude both offer $100 and $200 tiers for users who need more runway.

The marketing pitch for each paid tier follows the same basic script: more access, more power, better models, faster responses.

But what about the free tiers?

Google's free Gemini includes Deep Research, NotebookLM, a capable model in Gemini 2.5 Flash, and even limited video generation credits. Claude's free plan gives you Sonnet – a model that handles most everyday writing, summarisation, and analysis tasks. ChatGPT's free tier still provides GPT-5.3, image generation, and web search. Mistral's free plan caps you at roughly 25 messages a day, but those messages are processed at full quality with no speed throttling.

GETTY IMAGES

For the regular user, the free tiers deliver. So, paying $20 a month for such use cases is, bluntly, an unnecessary subscription.

For developers, data scientists, and technically proficient users, paid AI subscriptions provide a new class of features.

Claude Code is an autonomous agent that plans, writes, tests, and debugs across entire codebases. It can consume the equivalent of $1,500 in API compute for a flat $200 monthly fee, making it one of the most cost-efficient tools in a developer's arsenal.

ChatGPT's Codex agent, unlocked with Plus, can read and edit files, run tests, and commit to GitHub with minimal supervision. Google's Jules agent works asynchronously in the background, fixing bugs while you sleep.

This is the hidden two-tier structure that none of the marketing materials state clearly: these platforms are priced like consumer subscriptions but deliver their real value as developer tools.

So who should actually pay? If you're a developer writing production code daily, the $20-$100 tier is almost certainly worth it, compounding productivity gains from AI coding agents. If you're a privacy-conscious professional, Mistral Pro at $14.99 with its No Telemetry Mode offers something the American platforms don't: a contractual guarantee that your data isn't being used to train the next model.

The subscription industrial complex depends on the fear and anxiety that the free version is just slightly too limited to be useful. It manufactures friction at the edges by setting rate limits for messages and downgrading the model. And it mostly works, because the drag is real enough to be felt, even when it's rarely actually encountered.

The deeper irony is that as competition intensifies, the free tiers will keep getting better. The companies are caught in a race to the bottom that slowly undermines their own paid conversion logic.It is unlikely that the company will entirely remove the paid tiers. But, for now, unless you write code professionally, the free tier is almost certainly enough.

Or, if you're genuinely tempted, pick one platform that matches your workflow and subscribe to that one. The one thing guaranteed to leave you worse off than the free tier is paying for four subscriptions simultaneously and feeling virtuous about it.

The AI companies will call that a power user. Your bank account will call it something else.

SNAPSHOTS

Small camera reveals hidden world on Arctic seafloor

Researchers have caught a glimpse of life on the Arctic seafloor using a portable camera. After they deployed the device 260 m into a Greenlandic fjord, they saw a bustling ecosystem previously hidden from view. There were hundreds of small organisms, including shrimp-like amphipods and tiny jellyfish, and a snailfish swimming backwards and a narwhal. Using red LED lights, which many deep-sea creatures can't see, the researchers observed these animals without scaring them away.

AI tool excels at identifying cells, even 'new' ones

A powerful AI tool called TranscriptFormer can identify cell types with extreme accuracy, even of species it hasn't seen before. Scientists trained it on 112 million cells from 12 species, spanning 1.5 billion years of evolution. It could rapidly detect disease states in human cells and naturally uncover complex biological patterns, such as how species are related, without new instructions. The model is a new way for comparing biology across all living beings.

Vulnerable communities in Nepal need insect pollinators

A study in Nepal has found that insect pollinators are essential for both human health and financial survival. Researchers tracked the diets and incomes of smallholder farming families and found that insects are responsible for 44% of a family's farming income and over 20% of its intake of vital nutrients, like vitamin A and folate. The native honeybee was the single most critical species. The study also found that actively managing these species could reverse malnourishment trends.

Q

Question Corner

Flooding with light

On hotter days, why does the sky seem more grey than blue?

The sky's blue is due to Rayleigh scattering – when molecules in the air scatter light of shorter wavelength (bluer) much more efficiently than that of longer ones. On hotter days, however, there can be other things in the air that can affect how light is scattered.

Warmer air can hold more moisture. So on a hotter day, the air can have a combination of higher humidity, in the form of water vapour and fine droplets, and more dust, aerosols, and other particulate matter that convective currents driven by the heat have lifted. These larger particles scatter all wavelengths of light more equally, not just blue, an effect called Mie scattering. Rayleigh scattering happens only when the object scattering the light is much smaller than the light's wavelength.

As a result of Mie scattering, the sky's colours are 'washed out' into a pale grey haze. Human perception also plays a small role. On hot and bright days, the overall luminance of the sky increases, forcing our eyes to adjust.

Readers may send their questions / answers to science@thehindu.co.in

What is India's first orbital data centre satellite?

What is an orbital data centre? Why are global firms interested? What does the Pixxel-Sarvam partnership involve?

Jacob Koshy

The story so far:

On May 4, Pixxel, a Bengaluru-based imaging satellite company, said that it would partner with the AI firm Sarvam to launch what is being described as India's first 'orbital data centre' satellite, named Pathfinder. This is expected to be a 200 kg-class satellite scheduled for orbit by the fourth quarter of 2026. It will carry datacentre-class GPUs (graphics processing units) alongside Pixxel's hyperspectral imaging camera, the company's bread-and-butter business.

What is an orbital data centre?

It is a constellation of satellites carrying the same kind of GPUs found in terrestrial data centres. It can train and run AI models in orbit rather than only relaying data to ground stations. Such a centre can do more demanding work than the low-power "edge" processors that conventional satellites use for tasks like signal compression. Edge computing on earth refers to the practice of running computation close to where data is generated rather than in a centralised cloud, and the same logic, applied in orbit, is what space-based compute promises to extend.

Pixxel's Pathfinder is being built as a single-satellite demonstrator, designed to test whether ground-grade hardware can be made to function reliably in the harsh, hot environment of low Earth orbit.

An orbital data centre can do more demanding work than the low-power 'edge' processors that conventional satellites use for tasks like signal compression

Why are global firms suddenly interested?

Three factors have converged in the past two years, prompting large tech companies to strive towards making such centres real. Data centres are being constrained by limits on energy availability, land, water, and local regulation, all of which have been amplified by the demands of AI. In the right orbit, solar power is effectively continuous and offers free electricity, which proponents regard as the strongest argument for moving computation to space.

Earth observation satellites also generate detailed, heavy image files that are expensive to downlink; processing the data in orbit and beaming down only the conclusions has long been seen as a way to ease that bottleneck.

The third factor is competitive positioning. SpaceX CEO, Elon Musk, said on X in 2025 that "simply scaling up Starlink V3 satellites, which have high-speed laser links, would work. SpaceX will be doing this." He also argued that "Starship (the company's most powerful rocket) could deliver 100GW/year to high Earth orbit within four to five years if we can solve the other parts of the equation." Amazon founder Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin, Microsoft's Azure Space, and Lonestar Data Holdings have already begun pilot deployments. None of these efforts has yet produced a commercial-scale orbital data centre.

What are the challenges?

The GPU chips powered by electricity from solar panels become hot. Now space may be cold, and common sense may suggest it a natural sink for the heat. However, space is also empty and its vacuum eliminates convection. This is the mechanism by which warm air on earth is normally carried away from terrestrial servers; in orbit, a hot GPU chip is effectively an oven unable to fan away its own waste energy, with no air to carry it off. The only solution to this is radiation, which requires that heat be pumped through ammonia-filled loops to deployable panels, where it can be radiated as infrared light into space. The history of crewed spaceflight is studded with reminders of how unforgiving this regime can be.

Radiation damage is the second problem, and one that has shaped the design of every long-duration mission flown to date. 'Bit flips' – where bits and bytes of computers randomly change – and long-term semiconductor degradation are caused by cosmic rays, and radiation-hardened chips, which govern most space hardware, typically lag commercial GPUs by years. Power requires storage for eclipse periods, and maintenance is effectively impossible without robotic servicing, so redundancy must be designed in from the start.

What does the Pixxel-Sarvam partnership actually involve?

The Pathfinder satellite will be designed, built, launched, and operated by Pixxel. Sarvam, an Indian AI firm will provide what it describes as the AI backbone, with full-stack language models being run on the satellite's GPU layer for both training and inference. Pixxel's hyperspectral camera will be carried on the same platform, giving the mission an immediate use case: imagery captured in orbit can be analysed in orbit, with only the conclusions transmitted to Earth. The Pixxel team has several experts who have worked with the Indian Space Research Organisation and have experience in thermal management in space.

What is the Governor's role in a hung Assembly?

Why did the Governor refuse to swear in TVK party president Vijay as the new Tamil Nadu Chief Minister for many days? What is the primary objective of the Governor in such situations? What has the Supreme Court ruled in the past? Is the floor test the best way of proving majority?

Krishnadas Rajagopal

The story so far:

Despite the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) emerging as the single largest party in the 2026 Assembly elections in Tamil Nadu, Governor Rajendra Arlekar refused to swear in party president C. Joseph Vijay as the new Chief Minister for several days. The Lok Bhavan insisted that Mr. Vijay prove majority by handing over physical letters of support from at least 118 MLAs in the 234-seat Legislative Assembly. On May 9, Mr. Vijay met the Governor for the fourth time and staked claim to form the government. He is scheduled to take oath at 10 a.m. on Sunday.

What is the role of the Governor in the formation of a new government if there is a hung Assembly following an election?

The Governor appoints the Chief Minister under Article 164 of the Constitution. The Constitution does not provide a settled procedure for a Governor to choose a Chief Minister in a hung Assembly though constitutional conventions dictate that the Governor's actions must be guided by sobriety.

The primary objective of the Governor, as a constitutional head of the State, is to ensure the formation of a stable government. To this end, the Sarkaria Commission; the five-member Committee of Governors appointed by the President pursuant to the decision taken at the Conference of Governors held in New Delhi in November 1970; and conventions evolved through successive Supreme Court rulings provide that the personal bona fide or any ipse dixit of Governors is irrelevant.

The Lok Bhavan must proceed legally and explore all possibilities with political parties, groups, and independent MLAs within a reasonable time to maintain the constitutional machinery in the State. Only if all alternatives fail, and to avoid any violence to correct constitutional practice, should a Governor, as a last resort, initiate the process for declaration of President's rule in the State under Article 356 of the Constitution.

The Supreme Court has time and again held that the House, and not Lok Bhavan, 'is the place where democracy is in action'

TVK chief Vijay meets Tamil Nadu Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar at Lok Bhavan in Chennai on Friday. PTI

The Constitution has not defined the 'reasonable time' a Governor could take to explore possibilities for forming a responsible and stable government. But the Governor cannot wait indefinitely, and in the process, lay the field open for horse-trading. In fact, the Supreme Court has interpreted in the *B.R. Kapur* (2001) and *Rameshwar Prasad* (2006) judgments that the Governor could dissolve a Legislative Assembly under Article 174(2)(b) even before the first meeting of the State Legislature, to avoid a breakdown of the constitutional machinery due to parties' inability to stake claim to form a meaningful government for want of requisite strength. The Governor cannot be in limbo, neither being able to appoint a government nor exercise the power of dissolution.

What is the hierarchy or order of preference to extend an invitation to form a government?

The Sarkaria Commission Report of 1988, endorsed by the Supreme Court, has recommended that a Governor should first invite the pre-poll alliance which has won a majority. However, in Tamil Nadu, no such alliance has a clear majority. The next option is to invite the single largest party that could demonstrate majority support.

A nine-judge Bench in the *S.R. Bommai* judgment (1994) reasoned that the Constitution does not create an obligation that the political party forming the government should necessarily have a majority in the Assembly. "Minority governments are not unknown. What is necessary is that that government should enjoy the confidence of the House," the Supreme Court said.

The third in the order of preference is a post-poll alliance of parties that can demonstrate a majority in the Assembly. The use of this third option has become more frequent in recent times, with coalition governments becoming the norm. The Court had found nothing wrong in ideologically similar parties engaging in mutually convenient post-poll alliances to cross the Rubicon of the 'golden majority' in the House.

If none of these options work, the Governor can recommend President's rule, although this is an extreme measure. The Court has advised that a "constitutional machinery in the State should, as far as possible, be maintained". This advice has assumed new relevance in recent years, with Governors seen as using their discretionary powers to recommend President's rule to "promote the political interests of the party in power at the Centre."

Has the floor test been a constant, objective means to prove majority?

Critics have said Governor Arlekar's insistence on physical letters of support is the sole reason for the deadlock in Tamil Nadu. A writ petition has been filed in the Supreme Court, arguing that the Governor is "duty-bound" to invite Mr. Vijay to form the new government, swear him in, and immediately subject his claim to a trust vote on the floor of the Assembly.

The Committee of Governors had also concluded that the test of confidence in the government should normally be left to a vote in the Assembly.

Though the *S.R. Bommai* judgment includes a paragraph indicating that a floor test should be confined to testing the strength of an incumbent Chief Minister who is alleged to have lost majority support, and not used in the formation of a new government after elections, successive Supreme Court precedents have nevertheless relied on the floor test as the most objective and transparent way to ascertain majority. These judgments also highlighted that the fate of the electorate's mandate must not be left to the personal discretion of the Governor.

What are some instances where floor tests rescued the constitutional machinery in States?

Repeated occasions of the Court ordering floor tests to assess a claim to govern, whether by an existing or incoming government, has made it the touchstone for ensuring a stable government. In 2017, the Court declined to stay the swearing-in of the Bharatiya Janata Party's Manohar Parrikar as Goa Chief Minister at the head of a post-poll alliance, but reduced the 15-day window allowed to him to prove majority over the Congress, which was the single largest party, and ordered a floor test in 48 hours. Mr. Parrikar won the floor test. The Court intervened in Karnataka the next year after the Governor invited B.S. Yediyurappa to form the government while giving him 15 days to prove majority. On a challenge by the Congress-Janata Dal (Secular) combine, the Court allowed the swearing-in but cut short the time for the floor test to 24 hours and said it must be conducted on live camera and not by secret ballot. Mr. Yediyurappa resigned before the trust vote.

The Supreme Court has held that the House, and not Lok Bhavan, "is the place where democracy is in action." That is, the decision on who should govern must not be left to the subjective satisfaction of the Governor but be determined on the floor of the House.

Why is hantavirus drawing global attention?

What is hantavirus? What happened on the expedition cruise ship MV Hondius early this month? How does hantavirus spread? Why are health agencies monitoring recent cases? What are the symptoms and treatment options? How concerned should the public be?

Athira Elssa Johnson

The story so far:

Following a hantavirus outbreak on the MV *Hondius* expedition cruise ship in early May, in which three deaths were reported and at least five others were infected, global attention has once again turned to the group of viruses. Hantavirus had made headlines last year following the passing of Betsy Hackman, wife of renowned American actor Gene Hackman.

What happened on the ship?

The Dutch expedition cruise ship was travelling from Ushuaia in Argentina across parts of the South Atlantic towards Cape Verde and the Canary Islands when cases were identified among both the passengers and the crew.

The World Health Organization (WHO) said 147 passengers and crew were onboard, and 34 passengers and crew had previously disembarked. It said that as of May 8, there were eight cases (six confirmed and two probable cases) reported. Three of them died (two confirmed and one probable) after contracting the Andes strain of hantavirus. Several others were hospitalised with symptoms including fever and breathing difficulties.

WHO has stated that hantavirus does not spread easily between humans like airborne viruses such as influenza or SARS-CoV-2

MV Hondius docks off Cape Verde's Praia port on May 4, as health authorities investigate suspected hantavirus cases. REUTERS

After confirmed and suspected cases had been identified among passengers after they left the ship and travelled to different countries, health authorities in Singapore, Switzerland, South Africa, Spain, and the U.S. began tracking and monitoring passengers.

What is hantavirus?

Hantaviruses are a group of viruses mainly carried by rodents such as rats and mice. Human beings can get infected after coming into contact with infected rodent urine, saliva, or droppings, especially while cleaning or disturbing contaminated areas, which can release virus particles into the air.

Hantavirus infections can affect either the lungs or the kidneys. Some strains can cause hantavirus pulmonary syndrome, a severe respiratory illness, while others can lead to haemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome, affecting the kidneys and blood vessels. WHO states that even though most hantaviruses do not spread from one human to another, the Andes virus strain found in parts of South America has shown some human-to-human transmission, usually among close contacts.

Why are health agencies concerned now?

The outbreak linked to the MV *Hondius* cruise ship drew attention because passengers travelled across several countries before the infection was identified. WHO reported that cases were characterised by fever, gastrointestinal symptoms, pneumonia, respiratory distress, and shock. Reacting to fears of another pandemic, officials from WHO and the Disease Control and Prevention have stressed that hantavirus spreads very differently from viruses such as COVID-19 and is far less transmissible.

What are the symptoms?

WHO states that symptoms usually appear between one and eight weeks after exposure. Early symptoms are often flu-like and can include fever, muscle aches, fatigue, headache, chills, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, and dizziness.

In severe cases, the infection can affect the lungs, causing coughing, chest tightness, breathing difficulty, and fluid build-up in the lungs. Some forms of the disease can also affect the kidneys and blood vessels, leading to kidney complications or bleeding problems. Since the symptoms can resemble illnesses such as influenza, COVID-19, dengue, or pneumonia, diagnosis may sometimes be delayed. Even though infections remain rare overall, severe respiratory forms of hantavirus infection can be dangerous, particularly without early medical care.

Who is at risk?

People living or working in rodent-prone environments face the highest risk. Farmers, forestry workers, campers, construction workers, and people cleaning poorly ventilated or abandoned buildings are vulnerable. Health agencies also advise caution while handling pet rodents or entering rodent-infested spaces.

Is there a treatment or cure?

WHO notes that early diagnosis and timely medical attention can significantly improve outcomes. Prevention is important, particularly through rodent control, proper sanitation, and safe cleaning practices in potentially contaminated environments.

Currently, there is no specific antiviral cure or approved vaccine for hantavirus infection. Treatment mainly focuses on supportive medical care, including oxygen therapy, fluid management, and intensive care support during severe illness. Some patients may require mechanical ventilation.

Could this become another pandemic?

Public health agencies say current evidence does not suggest a COVID-19-like global pandemic scenario. WHO has repeatedly stated that the overall risk to the wider public remains low and that hantavirus does not spread easily between humans like airborne viruses such as influenza or SARS-CoV-2.

The outbreak has also drawn attention to zoonotic diseases – infections that spread from animals to humans – and highlighted the importance of staying prepared as global travel and human-animal interactions increase. At the same time, WHO and other health agencies have stressed that stronger surveillance, quicker reporting, testing systems, and coordination between countries are helping health authorities respond effectively.

The star who stormed into politics

Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam

The political organisation built by actor-turned-politician Vijay, which emerged as the single largest party in the Assembly, declares itself as a secular movement, rooted in the Tamil experience, and committed to social justice and equality

Ramya Kannan

In Tamil Nadu, reel is often indistinguishable from real, particularly in politics. In a State where people have gotten used to film folding into politics and vice versa, in fitting fashion, the website of the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) runs an AI-generated scene of war in the background. The ground shudders as a general rides in on horseback and dismounts, in a classic introductory scene for the hero, the rescuer, the commander who will vanquish all evil – C. Joseph Vijay.

Just over two years old, the TVK, which was formed in February 2024, has managed a cinematic transformation, going on to seize an impressive number of seats (108) in the Tamil Nadu Assembly in its political debut. Essentially emerging from Vijay's extensive fan-based network, the TVK has since declared itself as a secular organisation, rooted in the Tamil experience, and committed to social justice and equality.

While the party was questioned several times by its fierce critics about its ideological stance, it positioned itself as a movement with a stake in equality. It went with the opening lines of Tirukkural 972: *Pirappokkum ella uyirkkum*, meaning "all are born equal". The party also created a motley pantheon of sorts, installing social reformist leader Periyar, former Chief Minister Kamaraj, the father of the Constitution, Ambedkar, freedom fighter Velu Nachchiyar, and Gandhian and social activist Anjalai Ammal on a pedestal.

While his entry into politics was rumoured for long, it was on February 2, 2024, when people least expected it, that Vijay launched his political party, christening it the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam, sticking to the Tamil identity and playing on his name: Vijay – for victory. He chose to launch in Chennai, the fortress of the party's Enemy No. 1 – the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK).

Vijay had decided to take the bull by its horns in a State that understood a jallikattu metaphor very well. The city repaid him richly – the TVK won in 14 of Chennai's 16 seats, even defeating incumbent Chief Minister M.K. Stalin in his Kolathur base, a seat he had won three times before.

During the launch, Vijay perorated, to raucous applause and whistling from his fans: "It is a fact that everyone is yearning for governance that is selfless, transparent, corruption-free, and without caste or religious bias. What is important is that such politics is in tune with the Tamil culture of equality and political traditions of the State, and within the framework of the Indian Constitution."

Political and ideological rivals

He declared he would contest only in the 2026 Assembly elections, and would skip the Lok Sabha polls of 2024. He pointed to the DMK as his political rival and the BJP, his ideological rival. Vijay went on to rail against Stalin and the DMK, accusing them of indulging in dynastic politics and corruption, promising a "change" from all that. The TVK, he claimed, would defeat the behemoth Dravidian duopoly, set store by people-centred politics, fight against corruption, drugs and unsafe spaces for women, and create job opportunities.

He went on to refer to Stalin as 'Stalin Uncle' in an obvious effort to underline his relative youth, hailing the younger demographic. He urged children to ask their parents and grandparents to vote for 'Vijay mama'. The election symbol allotted to the TVK by the Election Commission of India, the whistle, too, worked its charm, with its entrenched emotive connect to the people of the State.

Vijay or the TVK may not have tasted power or been through the hamster wheel of governance, but he had actually announced his political ambition with the launch of Vijay Makkal Iyakkam (VMI), an organisation of fans with a welfare motive, in 2009. In Tamil Nadu, the *narpani mandram* is an established tradition – it is basically a welfare club of fans who come together to carry out outreach activities in the name of the star.

Over 80,000 fan clubs were set up under the VMI, a base that would grow to outpace the mightiest of political parties in Tamil Nadu. While they implemented the regular welfare

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

measures that *narpani mandrams* are usually involved in – distribution of computers to students, setting up free canteens, and blood donation camps – Vijay bid them to stretch a bit. They came together to launch disaster relief work during cyclones and floods in the State; some of the members contested as Independents in the 2021 local body polls and emerged victorious.

He himself stretched beyond the remit of a welfare/fan club president – in January 2017, he extended support to the massive protests that shook the State against the ban on jallikattu, the bull taming sport. Taking on the role of the anti-establishment hero he had been building himself up as, through his movies, he visited the venue on the Marina in Chennai, masked up.

He also met with political party leaders over the years, including the Congress' Rahul Gandhi, the current Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his term as Gujarat Chief Minister, and social activist Anna Hazare. Vijay met the family members of S. Anitha, a topper in the Class XII examination, who ended her life after she failed to clear the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET), at their home in Ariyalur. He also visited the families of the victims of the anti-Sterlite protests, again in their homes, in Thoothukudi. This was something he failed to do, inexplicably, after the Karur stampede.

During his rally in Karur, in September 2025, 41 persons, including children, died in a stampede that occurred when his caravan belatedly pulled into Velusamypuram on the narrow Karur-Erode highway. His actions after this were unusual – he left the place overnight and brought the family members of the victims to Chennai to meet him, instead of meeting them in their homes. In a later rally, he would rhetorically ask: "What did I do wrong in Karur?" turning the tables on the State government.

Walking on fire

Rambunctious crowds lined the pathways whenever he made a public appearance, dangerously throwing themselves at his convoy. Even during the heat of the campaign where the leaders of other political parties went to the nooks and crannies of the State, Vijay's appearances were few and far between. But that was a choice he had made, to adopt a strategy that was dissed as 'lazy' before the elections, but remarked upon with admiration after his win: A man, who seemingly was a loner, had no use for traditional electoral campaign methods. Instead, he turned to social media, setting, for his cadre, a task to build a whirlwind engagement agenda online. An army of official and unofficial supporters built up a storm – one that eventually put him ahead of all his rivals.

The TVK has indeed emerged the disruptor Vijay promised it would be. In some ways, it has already reshaped the power map in Tamil Nadu, but the sequence of events in the days after the declaration of results has turned out to border the farcical. While the TVK holds 108 seats (and 35% vote share), the highest any party has scored this election, it fell short of the absolute majority of 118 in a 234-seat legislature. After a week of negotiations, he managed to get support and bring his tally up to an acceptable 120 seats. Vijay, a political novice, has been thrown willy-nilly into the smouldering coal bed of politicking and political jockeying. How will a hero, used to setting the screens on fire, take to walking on fire? As the plot thickens, stay tuned.

THE GIST

- The TVK has created a motley pantheon of sorts, installing social reformist leader Periyar, former CM Kamaraj, Ambedkar, freedom fighter Velu Nachchiyar, and social activist Anjalai Ammal on a pedestal
- Vijay had actually announced his political ambition in 2009 with the launch of Vijay Makkal Iyakkam (VMI), an organisation of fans with a welfare motive
- Over 80,000 fan clubs were set up under the VMI, a base that would grow to outpace the mightiest of political parties in Tamil Nadu

The Bengal pivot

Suvendu Adhikari

Mamata Banerjee's former trusted lieutenant has unseated her from power and become West Bengal's first BJP Chief Minister

Shiv Sahay Singh

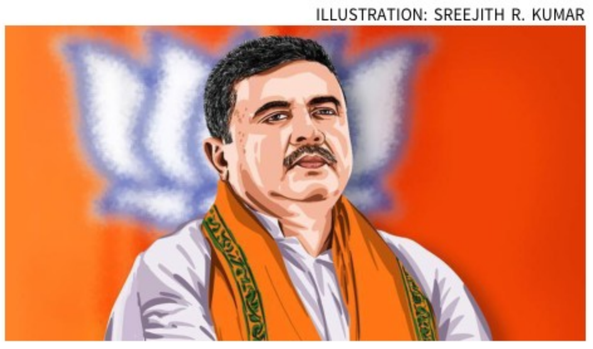
Weeks before Suvendu Adhikari defected from the Trinamool Congress to join the BJP in December 2020, several senior Trinamool leaders tried to persuade him to stay. But Mr. Adhikari's close aides knew that he had made up his mind: he wanted to become Chief Minister of West Bengal – an ambition he could never realise had he remained with the Trinamool.

Mr. Adhikari was the most promising of the second generation of Trinamool leaders until Mamata Banerjee's nephew Abhishek Banerjee emerged on the political scene. At the age of 27, Abhishek was elected MP from the Diamond Harbour Lok Sabha seat in 2014. By then, Mr. Adhikari had emerged as a prominent Trinamool leader who challenged the organisational might of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) during the Nandigram protests.

Mr. Adhikari comes from a political family in West Bengal's coastal Purba Medinipur district. His father Sishir Adhikari was associated with the Congress and then with the Trinamool when the party was set up in 1998.

It was the fight against land acquisition at Singur and Nandigram that catapulted Ms. Banerjee and the Trinamool to power in 2011, ending 34 years of Left Front rule in West Bengal. Mr. Adhikari was at the forefront of these protests. From the victims of Nandigram shooting in 2007 to those killed in communal violence in Murshidabad in 2025, many families of victims say that Mr. Adhikari stood by them when few others did.

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR



Growing influence

After the Trinamool came to power in 2011, Mr. Adhikari started extending his political influence across south and central Bengal, bringing MLAs, civic bodies and strongholds of the CPI(M)-led Left Front and the Congress into the Trinamool's fold. In 2016, he joined the Cabinet headed by Ms. Banerjee and became one of the most influential Ministers, in charge of the Transport and Environment Department.

The most challenging part of Mr. Adhikari's political journey came after he left the Trinamool. After defeating Ms. Banerjee in Nandigram in the 2021 Assembly polls by a margin of 1,956 votes, he faced a barrage of criminal cases by the West Bengal Police.

The State police filed so many cases against him that the Calcutta High Court, in an unprecedented order, directed that no new FIRs be filed against Mr. Adhikari and stayed proceedings in all pending cases. The affidavit filed by the BJP leader before the Election Commission in 2026 referred to 29 cases.

By his own admission, the BJP leader had to approach the Calcutta High Court on 111 occasions after the police denied him permission to hold public meetings. In campaign rallies, he repeatedly said West Bengal would go the way of Bangladesh if the Trinamool were to be voted to power again in 2026.

Mr. Adhikari has not been a stranger to controversies. His name figured in the Narada sting videos in which several Trinamool leaders were seen accepting cash on camera before the 2016 Assembly polls. More recently, after the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, he triggered another controversy when he said there was no need for the BJP Minority Morcha as Muslims did not vote for the BJP. If Ms. Banerjee was a student of the Left Front's brand of politics, Mr. Adhikari is a student of Ms. Banerjee's – populist, relentless, unforgiving, and unafraid to deploy the administrative apparatus against political adversaries. Once her closest aide, he went on to become her fiercest rival.

By defeating Ms. Banerjee in her Bhabanipur bastion by 15,115 votes in the 2026 Assembly election, Mr. Adhikari cemented his claim to the Chief Minister's post in West Bengal.

At 57, Mr. Adhikari will take charge of West Bengal at one of its most challenging moments – when the State is in urgent need of industry and jobs, its social fabric deeply polarised, and concerns over law and order persist. One of West Bengal's most popular leaders, Mr. Adhikari brings decades of electoral experience and some administrative experience. But he will need considerable political skill and farsightedness to put the State back on track.

Double-edged sword

Mythos

The Anthropic AI model can not only identify vulnerabilities in cyberspace that humans may have missed, but also generate ways to exploit them, potentially even for non-experts

V. Nivedita

In cybersecurity, speed is everything. The faster a vulnerability is found and rectified, the safer the data is. For years, human expertise was needed to do this. Now, Artificial Intelligence can identify hidden vulnerabilities and write the code to patch it in hours, compressing a process that once took teams of experts days or weeks. But, what happens when the same AI increases the risk?

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has warned that while AI could strengthen cyber defence, it could also make cyberattacks faster, cheaper, and accessible even to non-experts. The risks are particularly serious for the financial sector, which relies heavily on shared digital infrastructure like software, cloud services, payment networks, and interconnected databases.

In a new report, the IMF singled out Anthropic's Claude Mythos Preview to show how quickly risks are rising. Mythos is a large language model developed with general-purpose reasoning, coding, and autonomous tasks.

In April, Anthropic announced that Mythos would not be released publicly because of its ability to identify unknown flaws in IT systems, which could potentially be exploited by hackers. But on April 22, it confirmed it was investigating reports that unauthorised users had gained access to Mythos.

REUTERS

Mythos can find 'zero-day' or undiscovered vulnerabilities in real open-source codebases. It has also demonstrated capabilities to reverse-engineer exploits in closed-source software, and turn N-day, or known but not yet widely patched, vulnerabilities into exploits. In short, Mythos can not only identify vulnerabilities that humans may have missed, but also generate ways to exploit them, potentially even for non-experts.

"The vulnerabilities it finds are often subtle or difficult to detect. Many of them are ten or twenty years old, with the oldest we have found so far being a now-patched 27-year-old bug in OpenBSD – an operating system known primarily for its security," Anthropic said in a blog.

The company also revealed how quickly these capabilities emerged. Anthropic said its engineers were able to ask Mythos to find vulnerabilities and produce a complete, working exploit in just one night. "In other cases, we've had researchers develop scaffolds that allow Mythos Preview to turn vulnerabilities into exploits without any human intervention," the company wrote.

Fears of cyberattacks

More worryingly, the company revealed that these capabilities were not intentionally trained into the system. The blog noted that Mythos was able to develop these capabilities "very quickly" even though the AI was not trained specifically for them. "Rather, they emerged as a downstream consequence of general improvements in code, reasoning, and autonomy."

The challenge is that AI is already deeply embedded within the financial system. Powerful systems like Mythos raise fears that cyberattacks could become more scalable, automated, and accessible.

The IMF has urged governments and regulators not to treat AI "as a purely technical or operational issue" and instead build resilience through supervision, coordination, and preparedness. Governments are beginning to respond. Regulators and financial authorities across the world are warning that AI could amplify cyber risks in critical sectors.

In India, after reports emerged that unauthorised users may have gained access to Mythos, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman convened a meeting with Electronics and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, bankers, and other stakeholders to assess the risks posed by AI and its implications for financial data security.

Mythos reveals a deeper problem in the system. The IMF points out that the risks are not limited to the financial sector alone. Sectors like energy, telecommunications, and public services are also vulnerable. Dependence on a small number of software platforms, cloud providers, and AI models could further increase the impact because many sectors rely on the same infrastructure.

BEIRUT

Israeli strikes kill four near Beirut, at least 13 in southern Lebanon

AP

Three Israeli drone strikes on vehicles just south of Beirut on Saturday killed four persons while a series of air strikes on southern Lebanon killed at least 13, including a man and his 12-year-old daughter, state media and the Health Ministry said. Hezbollah claimed firing a drone at an Israeli military post in Misgav Am. AP

JERUSALEM

Israel to release two Gaza flotilla activists from prison: rights group

AFP

Israel will release two foreign activists taken off a Gaza-bound aid flotilla from detention on Saturday, the rights group representing them said. Spanish national Saif Abu Keshek and Brazilian Thiago Avila were brought to Israel last week after their flotilla was 'illegally' intercepted by the Israeli navy in international waters. AFP

PARIS

39 in custody in Paris over banned far-right and anti-fascist marches

REUTERS

Thirty-nine people were taken into custody in Paris on Saturday in connection with "banned protests by far-right and anti-fascist groups". They were detained for taking part in a group formed with the intention of committing violence and damaging property, wilful group violence and carrying prohibited weapons, police said. AFP

COLOMBO

Top Sri Lankan Buddhist monk arrested over alleged sex abuse

AFP

Sri Lankan authorities arrested a senior Buddhist monk on Saturday for the alleged sexual abuse of an 11-year-old girl, marking the highest-profile case involving clergy in the country. The crime is alleged to have taken place at a temple in Anuradhapura, where the accused Pallegama Hemarathana served as the chief priest. AFP

Deal hangs in balance amid renewed clashes in the Gulf

A U.S. fighter jet fired on and disabled two Iranian-flagged tankers that Washington accused of challenging its naval blockade; Trump says he is expecting Tehran's response to the U.S. proposal

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

A banner depicting the U.S. President which reads, 'There is no need for a video, I will do what ever you say' in Tehran on Saturday. AFP

Iran questioned the seriousness of American diplomacy on Saturday in the wake of renewed naval clashes in the Gulf, while keeping Washington waiting for a response to its latest negotiating position.

U.S. President Donald Trump had said on Friday that he was expecting Iran's response to Washington's latest proposal on a deal to extend a fragile truce and launch peace talks – "supposedly tonight".

But, if Iran did send the talks' Pakistani mediators a response, there was no public sign of this, and Tehran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi called into question the reliability of the U.S. leadership, in a call with his Turkish counterpart.

"The recent escalation of tensions by American forces in the Persian Gulf and their numerous actions in violating the ceasefire have added to suspicions about the motivation and seriousness of the American side in the path of diplomacy," he said, according to an Iranian account of the call published by the *ISNA* news agency.

In an incident on Friday, a U.S. fighter jet fired on and disabled two Iranian-flagged tankers that Washington accused of challenging its naval blockade of Iran's ports. The U.S. action prompted Iranian retaliatory attacks.

An Iranian military official told local media the country's navy had "responded to the violation of the ceasefire and to American terrorism with strikes" and "the clashes have now ceased".

The latest incident came after a previous flare-up overnight on Thursday to Friday in the Strait of Hormuz, a vital international sea lane that Iran is seeking to control to extract tolls from foreign vessels and to wield economic leverage over the U.S. and its allies.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio reiterated on Friday that it was "unacceptable" for Tehran to control the key oil route.

Washington has sent Iran, via Pakistani mediators, a proposal to extend the truce in the Gulf to allow for talks on a final settlement of the conflict launched 10 weeks ago with U.S.-Israeli strikes on Iran.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baqaei said on Friday that the proposal was still "under review".

Qatar's Prime Minister, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, met with U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance in Washington on Friday and discussed the Pakistani-led efforts to broker a permanent peace.

Army fighting 'aggressive' NATO-backed force: Putin

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

Members of a military band stand next to a screen broadcasting Vladimir Putin's address during the parade on Saturday. AFP

Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Saturday that his soldiers in Ukraine were fighting an "aggressive force" backed by all of NATO and described his war goals as "just", in a combative address to the annual Victory Day parade on Red Square.

Mr. Putin has made the memory of the Soviet victory over Nazi Germany in the Second World War a central narrative of his 25-year rule, and authorities typically mark the parade with pomp and grandeur.

But a spate of Ukrainian long-range attacks in recent weeks prompted the Kremlin to ramp up security measures and downsize this year's celebrations.

The parade was vastly scaled back compared to previous years, with no military hardware on display for the first time in nearly two decades and only a handful of foreign dignitaries in attendance – most of them leaders of Russia's close allies.

Both Moscow and Kyiv agreed to observe a three-day ceasefire over the event, following a last-minute appeal from U.S. President Donald Trump. Moscow had threatened a "massive" strike on central Kyiv if Ukraine disrupted the proceedings.

In an address to the parade, attended by Russian military units as well as soldiers from North Korea, Mr. Putin invoked the Soviet victory to rally support for his army in Ukraine.

'Past inspiring present'

"The great feat of the generation of victors inspires the soldiers carrying out the goals of the special military operation today," Mr. Putin said.

"They are confronting an aggressive force armed and supported by the entire NATO bloc. And despite this, our heroes move forward," he said.

"I firmly believe that our cause is just," he added later.

Meanwhile, the Kremlin said that the U.S. was in a hurry to clinch a peace deal to end the Ukraine war but that getting to any sort of agreement was a very long way off because the issues were so complicated and talks were basically on hold.

(With Reuters inputs)

Hungary's Peter Magyar sworn in as new premier

Associated Press
BUDAPEST

Hungary's Peter Magyar took his oath of office on Saturday to become the country's new Prime Minister, ending Viktor Orban's 16 years of autocratic rule.

Mr. Magyar's centre-right Tisza party defeated Mr. Orban's nationalist-populist Fidesz in a stunning blow last month, gaining more votes and seats in Parliament than any other party in Hungary's post-Communist history.

In a speech to lawmakers in Hungary's Parliament after being sworn in, Mr. Magyar said he would not use his office to "rule" Hungary, "but to serve my homeland".

His government is expected to transform political dynamics within the European Union.

Meanwhile, the newly appointed Speaker of Parliament, Agnes Forsthoffer, ordered the EU flag be hung back on the building, ending its long absence under Mr. Orban.

Rubio defends U.S. sanctions targeting Cuban conglomerate

Associated Press
HAVANA

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Friday defended the Trump administration's decision to slap new sanctions on Cuba, the largest of which is against Grupo de Administración Empresarial S.A. (GAESA), a business conglomerate operated by the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces.

In remarks to the press on Friday, Mr. Rubio said the sanctions were not on the Cuban people and he referred to GAESA as a company that "is taking anything that makes money in Cuba and illegally putting it into the pockets of a few regime insiders".

Economist Pavel Vidal said that the measures are "very concerning" for an economy already "practically paralysed".

The U.S. has blocked fuel shipments to Cuba since January, further escalating the island's years-long economic crisis.

UN mission in Congo warns of wave of attacks in east

Agence France-Presse
KINSHASA

The UN mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo warned on Saturday of a "deadly" wave of attacks in the country's restive east targeting civilians.

"Dozens of civilians have been killed in recent days" in areas in the provinces of Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu, MONUSCO said. Local sources said ADF fighters killed at least 36 people in two days.

U.K.'s Starmer vows to 'listen to voters' after election drubbing

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Keir Starmer

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer promised on Saturday he would "listen to voters" after his Labour party received a historic drubbing in local and regional elections.

A disillusioned electorate backed hard-right and nationalist parties in Thursday's ballots – Mr. Starmer's biggest electoral test since Labour ousted the Conservatives in 2024.

"The right lesson is to listen to voters," but it "doesn't mean tacking right or left", Mr. Starmer, who has faced calls to resign, wrote in *The Guardian* newspaper.

The anti-immigrant Reform UK party led by populist politician Nigel Farage made gains across England, Scotland and Wales – though Scottish and Welsh parties took the biggest share of seats in those elections.

With almost all votes tallied, the results were grim for Labour.

Clive Betts, the party's joint longest-serving MP, urged the Cabinet to take decisive action on Mr. Starmer's premiership.

Mr. Starmer has vowed to remain as Britain's Prime Minister but admitted the party had failed to sustain the public's trust that it was doing enough to deliver change.

His government had "made unnecessary mistakes" and failed to give the public "hope", he wrote.

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1	Construction of Raja Khemkaran Panorama Dist. Bharatpur (Raj.) **UBN is: HPP2627WSOB00019**	285.47 Lakh	15 Months

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5	B.Sc., Sports Coaching	3 Years
	Teacher Education Programme in Physical Education	
1	B.P.Ed., (Bachelor of Physical Education) (NCTE Approved)	2 Years
2	M.P.Ed., (Master of Physical Education) (NCTE Approved)	2 Years
	PG Programme	
1	M.Sc Yoga	2 Years
2	M.Sc Exercise Physiology and Nutrition	2 Years
3	M.Sc., Sports Biomechanics and Kinesiology	2 Years
4	M.B.A., Sports Management (AICTE Approved)	2 Years
5	M.Sc Sports Psychology and Sociology	2 Years
6	M.Sc., Sports Psychology	2 Years
7	M.Sc., Sports Coaching	2 Years
8	M.Tech., Sports Technology (AICTE Approved)	2 Years

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The Application for the admission can be done through tnpesuonline.in link in **www.tnpesu.org** Application Processing fee paid through online, by Credit Card/ Debit Card/Net Banking Only. Bank Pay Order/Challan etc., will not be accepted. Fee once paid will not be refunded.
IMPORTANT DATES
Online Application will be opened on : 10.05.2026
Last Date for online Application : All UG Programme : 06.06.2026
B.P.Ed., & M.P.Ed., : 15.06.2026
All PG Programme : 30.06.2026
Place : Chennai
Date : 10.05.2026
DIPR/368/DISPLAY/2026
Dr.I Lilly Pushpam
REGISTRAR

REAPING THE FRUITS

Prince has worked extremely hard, says LSG bowling coach

AP

All the credit should go to the bowlers. My job is like a mirror. (To) show them where they are and where they need to do to improve. And unless they put in the hard yards, they are not going to reap the benefits. We had lot of discussions and he (Prince Yadav) has worked extremely hard — LSG bowling coach Bharat Arun.

UNPLAYABLE DELIVERY

Don't think anyone can bowl it at will: Bharat on Prince's 'dream ball'

AFP

LSG bowling coach Bharat Arun hailed Prince Yadav's delivery to dismiss Virat Kohli in the match against RCB, saying even the maestro was amazed with it. Arun said: "I don't think anyone can bowl it at will, but if you are consistently working on your swing, it can be possible. And it was a dream ball".

GOOD CHEMISTRY

Noor and Akeal help each other out on the ground: CSK's Sriram

AFP

Noor Ahmad and Akeal Hosein share a good rapport and help each other out on the ground... they're well prepared in terms of being tactically aware. Noor's rhythm is pretty good now and he's sorted out his run-up. These minor tweaks are working really well for him — CSK assistant bowling coach Sridharan Sriram.

EVER-READY

Important to be prepared in Impact Player era: Rutherford

EMMANUAL YOGINI

MI's Sherfane Rutherford stressed it was important for players to be prepared in the Impact Player era, despite their selection being at the mercy of the management. "It is important to keep our minds in the right place, keep working. In the nets, I work on different scenarios so that I am not surprised when it comes to game day."

Gill and Rashid sizzle in Titans' thumping victory over Royals

The skipper smashes 84 off 44 deliveries and puts on 118 for the opening wicket with Sai Sudharsan as the visitor amasses 229 for four; the leggie bamboozles the Royals batters with a four-for after Rabada and Siraj account for the JaiSoorya pair

IPL-19

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
JAIPUR

Beneath the buzzing halogen glare, Shubman Gill (84, 44b, 9x4, 3x6) and Sai Sudharsan (55, 36b, 6x4, 2x6) batted with dementor-like cold efficiency, the Rabada-Siraj combine turned the PowerPlay into a high-velocity ambush, and Rashid Khan's stump-bound middle-over alchemy spelled doom as Gujarat Titans beat Rajasthan Royals by 77 runs in their IPL 2026 clash at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium here on Saturday.

Chasing 230, RR kept losing wickets and struggled to stay in the hunt.

Mohammed Siraj's 147 kph short ball climbed off the surface, hurrying Vaibhav Sooryavanshi (36) into a top-edged dismissal. Kagiso Rabada bullied Yashasvi Jaiswal (three) with a 152 kph bouncer, forcing a catch off a jammed-up pull.

Rashid returned to his hyper-kinetic hornet mode, offering neither loop nor parabolic flight. He made the ball fizz off the deck, seeking the stumps with a street-smart, predatory hunger. He castled Dhruv Jurel (24), Donovan Ferreira (four), and Shubham Dubey (15), and trapped Ravindra Jadeja (38) plumb in front.

Earlier, Gill was, as he often is, an upright study in perpendicular grace. Not for him the brutal hack or the bare-knuckle blow.

On fire: Gill put the Royals bowlers under pressure from the start. Rashid derailed the home team in the chase, with Jurel being one of his four victims. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

His innings was midnight-child magic, a sorcery of timing. It was signature Gill: the late-meeting clarity, the glass-cut contact, the velvet-gloved punch, and the thread-through precision.

When Tushar Deshpande banged it in, Gill simply marched down and knifed him past backward point for a four. Jofra Archer went short outside off, and he rose on his toes to thread the ball between point and cover for a four. Two deliveries later, front foot planted and maker's name flashing, he lifted Archer gloriously over mid-off for a six.

Archer was then driven straight back over his head, Brijesh Sharma creamed past mid-off, and even Jadeja was charged at and carved over extra cover for fours. The reverse over short third for a four against Yash Raj and an extra-cover six off Brijesh only completed the exhibition.

Sai Sudharsan was, on the other hand, an upright study in calm proportion. He was all quiet craft, a calibration of touch and tempo.

It was Sai Sudharsan distilled: the early-reading clarity, the under-the-eyes contact, the risk-shaving control, and the unhurried accumulation.

Next assignment

GT: May 12 vs. SRH
Ahmedabad, 7.30 p.m.

RR: May 17 vs. DC
Delhi, 7.30 p.m.

SCOREBOARD

GUJARAT TITANS
Sai Sudharsan c Archer b Yash Raj 55 *(36b, 6x4, 2x6)*, Shubman Gill c Deshpande b Brijesh 84 *(44b, 9x4, 3x6)*, Jos Buttler c Ferreira b Jadeja 13 *(10b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Washington Sundar (not out) 37 *(20b, 2x4, 3x6)*, Jason Holder c Jaiswal b Brijesh 7 *(7b, 1x4)*, Rahul Tewatia (not out) 14 *(4b, 2x6)*; Extras (b-1, lb-1, nb-1, w-16): 19; Total (for four wkts. in 20 overs): 229.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-118 (Sai Sudharsan, 10.5), 2-150 (Buttler, 13.2), 3-185 (Gill, 16.2), 4-205 (Holder, 18.1).

ROYALS BOWLING
Archer 3-0-46-0, Deshpande 4-0-52-0, Brijesh 4-0-47-2, Yash Raj 4-0-37-1, Jadeja 4-0-34-1, Ferreira 1-0-11-0.

RAJASTHAN ROYALS
Yashasvi Jaiswal c Nishant b Rabada 3 *(4b)*, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi **(Impact Player for Yash Raj)** c Arshad b Siraj 36 *(16b, 3x4, 3x6)*, Dhruv Jurel b Rashid 24 *(10b, 1x4, 3x6)*, Shimron Hetmyer c Holder b Rabada 6 *(7b, 1x4)*, Ravindra Jadeja lbw b Rashid 38 *(25b, 3x4, 2x6)*, Donovan Ferreira b Rashid 4 *(2b, 1x4)*, Shubham Dubey b Rashid 15 *(14b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Dasun Shanaka c Gill b Holder 16 *(11b, 2x4)*, Jofra Archer c Buttler b Holder 5 *(6b, 1x4)*, Tushar Deshpande c Washington b Holder 1 *(3b)*, Brijesh Sharma (not out) 1 *(1b)*; Extras (lb-1, w-2): 3; Total (in 16.3 overs): 152.

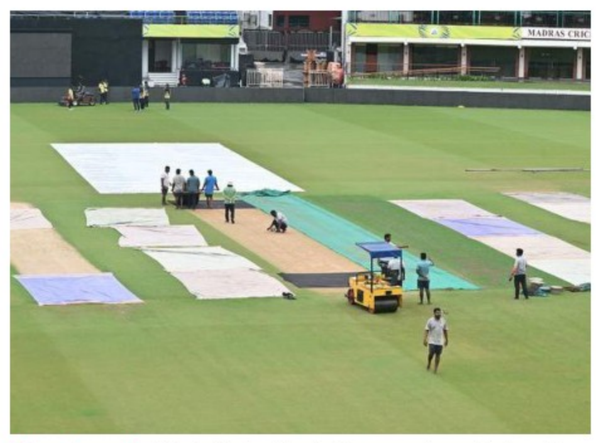
FALL OF WICKETS
1-38 (Sooryavanshi, 2.5), 2-40 (Jaiswal, 3.3), 3-68 (Hetmyer, 5.4), 4-87 (Jurel, 7.3), 5-91 (Ferreira, 7.5), 6-115 (Shubham, 11.4), 7-136 (Jadeja, 13.5), 8-141 (Archer, 14.5), 9-151 (Shanaka, 16.1).

TITANS BOWLING
Siraj 4-0-55-1, Rabada 3-0-33-2, Sai Kishore **(Impact Player for Tewatia)** 1-0-8-0, Rashid 4-0-33-4, Washington 2-0-10-0, Holder 2.3-0-12-3.

Toss: Royals.
Player-of-the-Match: Rashid.
Titans won by 77 runs.

Fascinating contest on the cards as CSK meets LSG

Tarun Shastry
CHENNAI



Extra element: Rain in the lead-up to the game has added another layer of intrigue. R. RAGU

With changing equations and restless anticipation becoming the flavour of the season almost by the minute, Chennai Super Kings will look to bring certainty and provide a clearer narrative to its IPL 2026 campaign when the Men in Yellow host Lucknow Super Giants at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium here on Sunday.

Emboldened by the presence of two unswerving allies in confidence and momentum, besides a vociferously passionate fanbase to count on, Super Kings will be raring to pounce on an opponent which is coming off a victory over defending champion Royal Challengers Bengaluru.

Lucknow's recent surge has been powered by strong individual form. Mitchell Marsh's commanding century in the previous outing set the tone at the top, while Nicholas Pooran and Rishabh Pant have begun to rediscover fluency, restoring both intent and balance to the middle-order.

On the bowling front, LSG has a mix of experience and variation. Mohammed Shami can make inroads with the new ball, while Prince Yadav's energy and wicket-taking ability could prove decisive in the middle overs. However, the rest of the bowling unit will need to sustain pressure consistently to keep the opposition batting in check.

Skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad and Sanju Samson will be key to the batting fortunes of Super Kings. The 20-year-old Kartik Sharma's confidence will be sky-high after guiding his side home in the last two games. The bowlers led by Anshul Kamboj, Akeal Hosein and Noor Ahmad will be crucial if the team aims to continue its journey upward.

There is much at stake for both sides, albeit to varying degrees. A victory would significantly strengthen the home team's hopes of securing a playoff berth and could further inspire Ruturaj & Co to raise their level. Meanwhile, the visitor, languishing in 10th place, will be determined to put on a show in its remaining games and finish the season strongly.

Rain in the lead-up to the game has added another layer of intrigue, and if the weather stays clear, an absorbing contest could be on the cards.

Prince and Mohsin have it in them to play for India: Arun

C. Shyam Sundar
CHENNAI

Prince Yadav has been a shining light in a rather tepid IPL 2026 for Lucknow Super Giants.

The pacer has not only claimed 16 wickets, but also showed he could deliver in different phases of the game, an indication of his progress.

LSG bowling coach Bharat Arun reckons Prince has it in him to step up and don the national colours if he continues to keep improving.

A product of tennis-ball cricket, the 24-year-old has made heads turn with impressive spells and sent maestro Virat Kohli packing in LSG's previous game against Royal Challengers Bengaluru with a peach of a delivery.

"Last year, Prince showed glimpses of what he could achieve," said Arun on the eve of LSG's match against Chennai Super Kings at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium.

"So, actually this year during the camps that we had, we discussed his strengths. See, under pressure, sometimes a bowler goes blank. But under pressure, the one who is confident of executing his strengths is going to be most successful in execution.

"One reason for me joining LSG was due to the fact they were really exciting bowlers. Prince and Mohsin Khan... Mohammed Shami is doing well and Mayank Yadav bowled pretty well in the last game.

"Okay, he is a little short of match practice, but he is getting there. And also, we have other few exciting prospects on hand.

"So, overall if you look at it, if you ask me – can they play for India? Yes, they (Prince and Mohsin) have it in them to play (for India)".

Genuine wicket-taker: Prince has demonstrated he could deliver in different phases of the game. R.V. MOORTHY

Today's matches

Chennai, 3.30 p.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 6
CSK 2 | LSG 3 | NR 1
PREVIOUS MEETING
CSK won by five wickets, 2025

Raipur, 7.30 p.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 35
RCB 16 | MI 19
PREVIOUS MEETING
RCB won by 18 runs, 2026

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1, 2 & JIOHOTSTAR

RCB takes on MI, looks to return to winning ways

Anish Pathiyil
RAIPUR

For the first time in two seasons, there seems to be some wear and tear in the otherwise well-oiled Royal Challengers Bengaluru machinery.

The defending champion looked set to comfortably finish in the top two and seal its place in Qualifier 1 after six wins in its first eight games. But back-to-back losses have pulled the side right into the multi-team melee for playoff qualification.

The master's voice: Jacks is all ears as Kohli elucidates a point. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Unfamiliar territory

The Rajat Patidar-led side will have to get to grips with unfamiliar territory at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium and outperform a rejuvenated Mumbai Indians side on Sunday to arrest the slide.

The IPL bandwagon shifts to the Chhattisgarh capital for the first time since 2016.

The small sample space of six games indicates that the venue hasn't been high-scoring, with 160 proving to be a winning total. But, in this era of blazing PowerPlay starts and persistent hitting through the middle overs, it remains to be seen if it will offer a fair contest between bat and ball.

Hardik injury worry

After missing the previous encounter due to a back spasm, MI skipper Hardik Pandya is yet to be declared fit for the upcoming game. The final call will be taken before the toss, the team management said. Suryakumar Yadav, who had flown back home for the birth of his child, will join the team on the day of the match.

Rain affects training

A short but intense burst of rain hit the stadium on the eve of the encounter, causing a slight delay to the practice sessions.

A returning drizzle forced the teams to shut shop earlier than planned. Conditions are expected to be much better come matchday.

MI, especially, will hope that the rain stays away. Anything less than two points will mean the side will miss out on the playoffs for the fourth time in six seasons.

Points table

	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
Sunrisers Hyderabad	11	7	4	0	14	0.737
Gujarat Titans	11	7	4	0	14	0.228
Punjab Kings	10	6	3	1	13	0.571
Royal Challengers	10	6	4	0	12	1.234
Rajasthan Royals	11	6	5	0	12	0.082
Chennai Super Kings	10	5	5	0	10	0.151
Kolkata Knight Riders	10	4	5	1	9	-0.169
Delhi Capitals	11	4	7	0	8	-1.154
Mumbai Indians	10	3	7	0	6	-0.649
Lucknow Super Giants	10	3	7	0	6	-0.934

Caps race is turning heads

What truly sets this year's competition apart from past seasons is the absence of a runaway leader in batting or bowling; the contests in both disciplines look set to go down to the wire

IPL-19

Natalia Hannah Rice
CHENNAI

The race to the Orange Cap in IPL 2026 remains finely poised, with the leading run-scorers separated by slender margins as the league stage hurtles towards the decisive stretch. No batter has managed to establish outright dominance, underscoring the tournament's unpredictable nature so far.

Heinrich Klaasen of Sunrisers Hyderabad currently leads the standings with 494 runs from 11 matches. His teammate Abhishek Sharma has 475 in 11 outings. K.L. Rahul (Delhi Capitals) sits third with 468 (11 matches).

Gujarat Titans skipper Shubman Gill is in fourth spot (462, 10 matches). Rajasthan Royals' Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, who has emerged as one of the breakout stars of the competition, and GT's Sai Sudharsan are in tied fifth place (440 in 11 games each). With such narrow margins separating the leading batters, the Orange Cap is likely to change hands several times before the league phase concludes.

Top of the charts: The consistent Klaasen is the Orange Cap leader while the incisive Rabada has the Purple Cap. NAGARA GOPAL & ANI

The Purple Cap contest is proving just as enthralling. Titans' spearhead Kagiso Rabada is on top with 18 wickets (11 matches).

Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Chennai Super Kings' Anshul Kamboj are level on 17 wickets apiece (10 matches each) while Prince Yadav (Lucknow Super Giants) and Eshan Malinga (Sunrisers) remain close behind with 16 scalps each. Prince has played 10 games and Malinga 11.

Notably, the Purple Cap leaderboard has been dominated entirely by pacers, with no spinner managing to break into the top five. This trend highlights the decisive influence fast bowling has had on the tournament.

What truly sets this year's competition apart from past seasons is the absence of a runaway performer in either discipline. The batting and bowling charts have fluctuated constantly throughout the campaign.

With several high-stakes matches still to come, both races appear set to remain fiercely competitive until the very end, ensuring that every performance carries added significance.

Constructive criticism necessary, says Shedge

S. Shrivathsan

Punjab Kings all-rounder Suryansh Shedge had to bide his time in the first month of IPL 2026, when the Shreyas Iyer-led side operated like a winning machine.

In that phase, the 23-year-old constantly kept reminding the PBKS decision-makers of the value he could bring to the table. And when the opportunities came his way after slices of luck – Shashank Singh's absence due to a hamstring issue and Nehal Wadhera's wretched batting run – Shedge showed his wares with the willow.

The youngster stressed that approaching every practice session with the "right attitude" helped him get going.

"Even though I was not playing, I was working as hard as I possibly could every day. That is what made me ready for my entry into the XI," Shedge said during a virtual interaction on Saturday. He rescued a sinking ship with a 29-ball 57 against Gujarat Titans and followed it up with a 25 against Sunrisers Hyderabad. "A lot of cricketers start thinking negatively when they are on the sidelines. But I looked at it as an extra month of preparation. I was learning, watching games and finding ways to improve."

Shedge. FILE PHOTO: VIJAY SONEJI

The Mumbai lad revealed that meaningful chats with Shreyas and head coach Ricky Ponting kept him in the right frame of mind.

"Shreyas *bhai* and I talk a lot about cricket. Constructive criticism is necessary sometimes, and only a healthy team environment can give you that.

"With Ponting sir, the talks were about how I was batting in the nets. After the fourth or fifth game, he said that he totally understood how I was feeling. He asked me to focus on my preparation so that I am switched on when I get a chance. That heart-to-heart talk helped me a lot".

Never felt I was under more pressure due to price tag: Green

Vivek Krishnan
NEW DELHI

As the Indian Premier League's (IPL) most expensive overseas recruit ever at ₹25.2 crore, Australia's Cameron Green had many more eyeballs fixed on his exploits for Kolkata Knight Riders this season.

A patchy start to the tournament, coupled with KKR's streak of losses, meant Green was in the firing line, but the all-rounder from Perth – an imposing presence at 6'6" – has got better as the competition has progressed.

The 26-year-old has contributed 232 runs and four wickets in 10 matches for the three-time champion. While he would have certainly liked to make more of an impact, he hasn't felt any additional pressure because of his price tag.

"The support staff never put any pressure on me. They have been awesome to me since day one. I was never made to feel that there was any extra pressure compared to anyone else," Green said after Knight Riders defeated Delhi Capitals on Friday.

"There's always pressure on the international guys. You have to be performing at all times because the guys on the bench are also ready to go. But, no, I'll probably have the support staff to thank for that."

Green. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

KKR's hopes of reaching the playoffs appeared derailed when it went winless in its first six matches. Now, a run of four victories on the trot has given Ajinkya Rahane and Co. a fresh lease of life.

Asked for his view on the resurgence, Green argued that the belief was always intact.

"I didn't think the belief was ever gone. We've had a really good culture this whole tournament," he opined.

INBRIEF

Abbas and Awais lead Pakistan's fightback

Pakistan clawed back into the first Test against Bangladesh thanks to stellar performances from Mohammad Abbas (five for 92) and Azan Awais (85 batting) on day two in Dhaka on Saturday.

The scores: Bangladesh 413 in 117.1 overs (Mominul 91, Shanto 101, Mushfiqur 71, Shaheen 3/113, Abbas 5/92) vs. Pakistan 179/1 in 46 overs (Awais 85 batting, Imam-Ul-Haq 45).

Indian u-15 girls storm into eight finals at Asian boxing

India's under-15 girls delivered commanding performances in the semifinals at the Asian Boxing Championships, with eight boxers advancing to the finals across weight categories in Tashkent on Saturday.

The results: Girls: Semifinals: 33kg: Akshita bt Ayazhan Marat of (Kaz) RSC; **35kg:** Malika Moldogazieva (Kgz) bt Jiya 4:1; **37kg:** Anzee bt Sarvinoz Riskulova 5:0; **40kg:** Soniya bt Diana Mendigarayeva (Kaz) 5:0; **43kg:** Tanvi bt Sezim Nurlubek (Kaz) RSC; **46kg:** Hanshika Attri bt Yuhui Cheon (Kor) RSC; **49kg:** Zebiniso Abdullayeva (Uzb) bt Khushi Rana 5:0; **52kg:** Samal Tolepbergen (Kaz) bt Knishka 5:0; **58kg:** Sunaina bt Ardak Abdikhan (Kaz) RSC; **61kg:** Bhumika bt Chiao-Ying Chang (Tpe) RSC; **64kg:** Tannvi bt Yasmin Jautkhanova (Kaz) 4:1; **67kg:** Nurgul Sakhi (Kaz) bt Aashvi RSC; **70+kg:** Zahro Daniyorova (Uzb) bt Manvi 5:0.
Boys: Quarterfinals: 50kg: Yash Yadav bt Kubanychbek Bolushov (Kgz) 4-1; **54kg:** Nivesh Pal bt Shingen Kanai (Jpn) 5-0; **60kg:** Emir Mukhit (Kaz) bt Karung Albertson 5-0; **66kg:** Islam Suleimanogly (Kaz) bt Ranveer 5-0; **70kg:** Naman Kumar bt Ruzibek Miravotov (Tjk) 5-0; **75kg:** Lakshay Phogat bt Cheng-En Li (Tpe) 5-0; **80kg+:** Sabyrzhan Sagym (Kaz) bt Siddhant 5-0.

Chotrani beats Abhay in World C'ships first round

Indian world No. 45 Veer Chotrani defeated his higher-ranked compatriot Abhay Singh 14-12, 8-11, 5-11, 11-7, 11-2 in the men's opening round of the World Squash Championships in Giza, Egypt. Kareem El Torkey of Egypt defeated Ramit Tandon 11-6, 7-11, 11-6, 11-0, while France's Victor Crouin beat Velavan Senthilkumar 11-8, 11-8, 11-3.

LIVE TELECAST

Archery WC: Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 7.30 & 11.30 a.m.
Bangladesh vs Pakistan: 1st Test, day 3, FanCode, 9.30 a.m.
IPL: Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 3.30 & 7.30 p.m.
IFL: Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 6.30 p.m.
ISL: Sony Sports Ten 2 & FanCode, 5 & 7.30 p.m.
LaLiga: FanCode, 5.30, 7.45, 10 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Monday)
Premier League: SS Select 1 & JioHotstar, 6.30 & 9 p.m.

WFI shoots down Vinesh's comeback

Y.B. Sarangi
NANDININAGAR (U.P.)

The Wrestling Federation of India on Saturday showcaused double World championships medallist Vinesh Phogat on different grounds, including her failure to stick to the weight restriction at the Paris Olympics, anti-doping issues (multiple whereabouts failures) and participating in two weight categories during the trials for an Olympic qualifier.

Besides, the WFI shot down Vinesh's attempt to come back to competitive wrestling – at the Senior Open Ranking tournament starting on the Nandininagar Mahavidyalaya campus here on Sunday – following her post-Paris "sabbatical."

It said Vinesh informed the world body, United World Wrestling (UWW), about her return less than six months ago, the minimum stipulation for a retired athlete to make a comeback.

It's learnt that there is a written record of Vinesh's retirement and her decision to return to competition.

In the 15-page showcause, the WFI highlighted the issue of Vinesh failing to meet the weight stipulation on the second day after reaching the 50kg final at the Paris Olympics.

SNAPSHOTS

Jaiswal and Shafali get NADA notices

NEW DELHI: Indian cricketers Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shafali Verma have been issued notices by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) for not being available for scheduled dope tests last year, leading to their first whereabouts failure.
It is reliably learnt that the two players, who are a part of NADA's Registered Testing Pool (RTP), did not explain the reasons for the missed tests.

AICF promises to pay prize money dues to GM Abhijeet

Grandmaster Abhijeet Gupta, left frustrated by the delay in receiving prize money for his Odisha Open title earlier this year, has now received an assurance from the All India Chess Federation that the issue will be resolved and "necessary action" will be initiated to clear his dues.
Abhijeet was forced to seek intervention from the Sports Ministry after repeated letters to the AICF failed to secure his payment even four months after his triumph. It has been learnt that the Odisha association's bank account has been frozen due to infighting.

Indian shooters' medal drought continues

ALMATY (KAZAKHSTAN): Neeru Dhanda finished seventh in the women's

Abhijeet Gupta. FILE PHOTO: B. VELANKANNI RAJ

trap final at the ISSF Shotgun World Cup as India's medal drought in the competition continued on Saturday.
The 25-year-old was the first to be eliminated in the eight-shooter final after managing seven hits in the opening 10-shot elimination stage.
Australia's Penny Smith clinched gold with a perfect 30 to set a world record.
Spain's Fatima Galvez won silver with 25, while Zuzana Rehak Stefecekova of Slovakia bagged bronze.
In men's trap, Shapath Bhradwaj, with 118 (25, 25, 21, 22, 25), was the best-placed Indian at 16th.

Gukesh recovers ground

WARSAW (POLAND): World Champion D. Gukesh endured a shaky start in the blitz section but recovered ground with a commanding victory over Jan-Krzysztof Duda in the ninth round of the Super Rapid and Blitz Poland.
After finishing the rapid section with nine points out of a possible 18, Gukesh collected four more points from the opening nine blitz rounds to take his tally to 13 out of 27 at the halfway stage of the blitz competition.
Hans Moke Niemann of the United States continued to lead the table despite a very mediocre show on the first day of blitz.

The results: 18th round: D. Gukesh (13) bt Jan-Krzystzof Duda (Pol, 12.5); Fabiano Caruana (USA, 15) drew with Vladimir Fedoseev (Slo, 15); Hans Moke Niemann (USA, 16.5) lost to Radoslav Wojtaszek (Pol, 10); Wesley So (USA, 16) drew with Javokhir Sindarov (Uzb, 12); Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra, 12.5) drew with Alireza Firouzja (Fra, 12.5).

Vaidehee, Zeel lose in the semifinals

TUMAKURU: Indians Vaidehee Chaudhari and Zeel Desai exited in the Tumakuru Open ITF W35 semifinals at the Tumakuru District Tennis Courts on Saturday.
Lithuania's Justina Mikulskyte ended Vaidehee's run with a 6-3, 2-6, 6-2 victory while Zeel was forced to retire despite leading against Poland's Zuzanna Pawlikowska.
Zeel had won a gripping opening set, and was leading 2-1 in the second when severe cramps brought her campaign to an end.
Zuzanna herself was dealing with a shoulder injury during the match.
In the doubles final, Zuzanna and Vaidehee handed a walkover to Ksenia Laskutova and Elina Nepliy.

The results: Semifinals: Justina Mikulskyte (Lit) bt Vaidehee Chaudhari 6-3, 2-6, 6-2; Zuzanna Pawlikowska (Pol) bt Zeel Desai 6-7 (9), 1-2 (retired).

Doubles: Final: Ksenia Laskutova & Elina Nepliy w/o Vaidehee & Zuzanna.

Shaina enters title clash

BENGALURU: Karnataka's Shaina Manimuthu defeated Tamil Nadu's Adarshini Shri 21-16, 21-15 in the girls' under-19 semifinal of the Yonex-Sunrise All India junior ranking badminton tournament here.

The results: Semifinals: Boys: Singles: Abhinav Garg (Kar) bt Akhil Reddy (TG) 21-9, 19-21, 21-19.

Gnana Dattu (TG) bt Hardik Divyansh (Kar) 21-19, 21-13.

Doubles: Aanayan Borah (Asm)/Bjorn Jaison(Ker) bt Abhishek Bonu (AP)/Siddharth Rayaprolu (TG) 21-16, 23-21.

S. Pavan (Kar)/S. Punith (Kar) bt Divyansh Agrawal (CG)/Amarjit Singh Khwairakpam (Man) 21-13, 15-21, 21-15.

Girls: Singles: Shaina Manimuthu (Kar) bt Adarshini Shri (TN) 21-16, 21-15.

Tanvi Patri (Odi) bt Akshita Gulia (Har) 21-8, 21-9.

Doubles: Diya Bheemaiah (Kar)/Baruni Parshwal (Har) bt Durga Esha (AP)/Keerthy Manchala (TG) 21-10, 21-18.
Anushkaa Jennifer (TN)/Dheeshitha Singha (TN) bt Varna Prabhuanand (TN)/Suhina Roy (Kar) 21-18, 21-14.

Sreeshankar eyes a good showing

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

The sixth leg of the Indian Athletics Series, beginning at the Nehru Stadium here on Sunday and part of the 16-leg nationwide circuit running from April to September, will be a huge preparatory exercise for athletes like star long jumper Murali Sreeshankar and others.

The Athletics Federation of India has made participation mandatory in a minimum of two domestic meets to be considered for the National Federation Cup in Ranchi from May 22 to 25 (it is the final selection trials for the Glasgow Commonwealth Games to be held in July-August).

"Heading up to Federation Cup and rest of the season, so obviously the target is to be in good shape for the main events, including the CWG and Asian Games," he told media after his training session on Saturday.

Sreeshankar, a silver medallist in the 2022 CWG, said the recent training stint in South Africa was competitive. "I trained for three weeks in the North West Academy of Sport in Potchefstroom and did 8.12m in a meet in Pretoria. The cold weather in South Africa and Glasgow CWG will be similar, which might help me," he said.

It's Lux Aeterna vs Promiseofthefuture

BENGALURU: Lux Aeterna and Promiseofthefuture may fight out the finish of the Capricorn Stud Plate (1,300m), the feature event of the races to be held here on Sunday (May 10).
False rails (width about 5.5m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1 ROYAL CHALLENGE PLATE (1,500m), rated 00 to 25, 3.00: 1. Agape (7) Akshay K 61, 2. Palma (4) Laxman S 61, 3. Enjoyable (8) Kiran Rai 59.5, 4. Friya (2) Indrajeet K 59.5, 5. Lex Luthor (6) Rayan 58.5, 6. Makoto (5) M. Rajesh K 58.5, 7. Double Scotch (3) Jagadeesh 56 and 8. Dr. Colchester (1) Arul J.H 54.5.
1. AGAPE, 2. PALMA, 3. DOUBLE SCOTCH

2 RAZEEN PLATE (Div. II), 1,400m, rated 20 ro 45, 3.30: 1. Refined Aggression (2) Trevor 60, 2. Agrador (4) Antony 58.5, 3. Dr Ash (3) M. Rajesh K 56.5, 4. Higgs Boson (8) Siddaraju P 54, 5. Chinky Pinky (1) Shreyas S 53.5, 6. Hold Your Breath (5) Kiran Rai 53, 7. My Solitaire (7) Jagadeesh 52.5 and 8. Pursuit Of Wealth (6) Rafique S.K 52.5.
1. REFINED AGGRESSION, 2. AGRADOR, 3. HOLD YOUR BREATH

3 AGUMBE PLATE (1,200m), rated 40 to 65, 5-y-o & over, 4.00: 1. True Punch (11) Suraj 61, 2. Battle Lass (5) A. Hangal 58.5, 3. Silicon Star (12) G. Vivek 58, 4. Senor Cherie (6) Antony 56.5, 5. Felisa (1) Pavan 55, 6. Kabali (2) S. Sachin 55, 7. Master Way (9) Suhas K 55, 8. Dynamic Force (3) Arul J.H 54.5, 9. La Mcqueen (7) Aleemuddin 54, 10. Scarlette Lady (10) S. Shareef 54, 11. Eclipse Pulse (4) Ashhad Asbar 53.5 and 12. Basilica (8) Trevor 53.
1. SENOR CHERIE, 2. TRUE PUNCH, 3. SILICON STAR

4 MOTHER'S DAY TROPHY (1,500m), rated 40 to 65, 4.30: 1. The Leader (6) Akshay K 60.5, 2. Maana (1) Antony 55.5, 3. Sunshine (7) Suraj 54, 4. Aquastic (5) Yash 53, 5. Corinthian (8) Trevor 53, 6. Storm Shadow (3) Neeraj 52, 7. Mystical Air (4) Shreyas S 51 and 8. Sassy (2) M. Rajesh K 50.
1. SUNSHINE, 2. MAANA, 3. THE LEADER

5 CAPRICORN STUD PLATE (1,300m), rated 60 to 85, 5.00: 1. Irish Coffee (2) Arul J.H 60, 2. Promiseofthefuture (4) Pavan 59, 3. Stellantis (7) Indrajeet S 58, 4. Efficacy (3) Shreyas S 57, 5. Jersey King (6) Suraj 57, 6. Victoria Doresaani (5) L.A. Rozario 54 and 7. Lux Aeterna (1) Trevor 53.5.
1. LUX AETERNA, 2. PROMISEOFTHEFUTURE, 3. JERSEY KING

6 RAZEEN PLATE (Div. I), 1,400m, rated 20 ro 45, 5.30: 1. Unforgettable Star (2) A.A. Vikrant 62.5, 2. El Rey (5) Trevor 62, 3. Oxytocin (6) Kiran Rai 59.5, 4. Stravinsky (7) M. Rajesh K 59.5, 5. Valiant Stream (8) Akshay K 59.5, 6. Chotipari (4) Laxman S 59, 7. Glorious Strides (9) Darshan 57.5, 8. Divo (3) Jagadeesh 54 and 9. Prince Of Wales (1) Mukesh K 53.
1. VALIANT STREAM, 2. EL REY, 3. PRINCE OF WALES

Day's best: **SUNSHINE**
Double: **SENOR CHERIE - VALIANT STREAM**
Jkt: 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6; Mini Jkt: 3, 4, 5 and 6; Tr (i): 1, 2 and 3; (ii): 4, 5 and 6.

Kalamitsi claims the Kunigal Stud Trophy

BENGALURU: S. Attaollahi-trained Kalamitsi (Trevor up) won the Kunigal Stud Trophy (1,200m), the main event of the races held on Saturday (May 9).

The winner is owned by Mr. Solomon Benveniste, M/S. Deciding Factor LLP, Sarainaga Racing Pvt Ltd, Mr. Hemang D. Doctor & Mr. Lokesh Ahuja. Jockey Trevor went on to complete 2000 wins on Final Call.

1. CHANTILLE PLATE (1,500M): PLEDGE (Akshay K) 1, Assurances (Suraj) 2, Alamgir (Pavan) 3 and Star Of India (Neeraj) 4. 3-3/4, 1-1/2 and 1-1/4. 1m 33.32s. ₹25 (w), 10, 14 and 11 (p), SHP: 37, THP: 37, FP: 134, Q: 60, Trinella: 288/62, Exacta: 519/210. Favourite: Alamgir. Owners: Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala, Mr. Girish Mehta, M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP & So Blest Trading Co. Pvt. Ltd. Trainer: Darius Byramji.

2. RABINDRANATH TAGORE JAYANTI TROPHY (1,300M): RODNEY (Pavan) 1, Circle Of Dreams (Akshay K) 2, Waitara (Neeraj) 3 and Thessalian (Antony) 4. 1, 5 and Hd. 1m 19.01s. ₹56 (w), 15, 10 and 19 (p), SHP: 44, THP: 38, FP: 98, Q: 30, Trinella: 431/256, Exacta: 2,317/1,456. Favourite: Circle Of Dreams. Owners: M/s. Rapar Galloping Stars LLP rep. by Mr. Rajendran & Mr. Francis Arun Kumar. Trainer: Irfan Ghatala.

3. DUPONT PLATE (1,200M): JALWA (Asirvatham) 1, Annabelle (Aleemuddin) 2, Razzmatazz (S. Sachin) 3 and White Secret (A. Ramu) 4. 1-3/4, 1 and 1. 1m 15.48s. ₹219 (w), 37, 12 and 13 (p), SHP: 32, THP: 39, FP: 896, Q: 287, Trinella: 2,685/732, Exacta: 16,847/21,660. Favourite: Annabelle.

Owners: Mrs. Mahima Shailesh, Dr. Dayananda Pai P, Mr. Naveen Preben Gowda & Mr. Kaardam Patel. Trainer: Azhar Ali.

4. KUNIGAL STUD TROPHY (1,200M): KALAMITSI (Trevor) 1, Ricardo (Aleemuddin) 2, Excellent Lass (Yash) 3 and Never Give In (Antony) 4. 1/2, 2 and 3/4. 1m 12.71s. ₹47 (w), 18 and 25 (p), SHP: 35, THP: 52, FP: 340, Q: 129, Trinella: 229/78, Exacta: 515/416. Favourite: Excellent Lass.

Owners: Mr. Solomon Benveniste, M/S. Deciding Factor LLP, Sarainaga Racing Pvt Ltd, Mr. Hemang D. Doctor & Mr. Lokesh Ahuja. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

5. DEAN STEPHENS MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,400M): SIEGE STORM (Akshay K) 1, Ashwa New York (Yash) 2, The Archer (Trevor) 3 and Atman (G. Vivek) 4. 4-1/2, 3/4 and Nk. 1m 25.85s. ₹20 (w), 11, 18 and 13 (p), SHP: 55, THP: 47, FP: 193, Q: 128, Trinella: 321/79, Exacta: 1,389/829. Favourite: Siege Storm.

Owners: Mr. Daulat Chhabria, Mr. S.R. Sanas, M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP & Mr. Ashok Ranpise. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

6. AZHAR PLATE (1,200M): FINAL CALL (Trevor) 1, Flash (Md. Ashraf Reza) 2, Roadrunner (Laxman S) 3 and Ebotse (Aleemuddin) 4. Shd, 1/2 and 2-1/4. 1m 14.38s. ₹13 (w), 12, 26 and 18 (p), SHP: 99, THP: 46, FP: 186, Q: 129, Trinella: 736/228, Exacta: 3,768/1,1614. Favourite: Final Call.

Owners: Mr. P.J. Vazifdar, Mr. M. Rishad, Mr. Kersi H. Vachha, M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP, Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala & Mr. S.R. Sanas. Trainer: James Mckeown. Jackpot: ₹18,304; Runner-up: 7,409; Mini Jackpot: 6,094; Treble (i): 4,927; (ii): 363.

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Manchester City stays on Arsenal's tail

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Manchester City kept its slender Premier League title hopes alive as Jeremy Doku inspired a 3-0 win against Brentford on Saturday. Pep Guardiola's side struggled to prise open Brentford for almost an hour.

But Doku's latest dazzling strike broke the deadlock before Erling Haaland bagged his 26th league goal this season.

Omar Marmoush wrapped up an essential City victory in stoppage-time.

City closed to two points behind leader Arsenal, putting pressure back on Mikel Arteta's team to win at third-bottom West Ham on Sunday.

Earlier, Liverpool missed the chance to all but secure Champions League action next season after a 1-1 draw against Chelsea, while Manchester United was frustrated in a goalless stalemate at Sunderland.

The results: Premier League: Liverpool 1 (Gravenberch 6) drew with Chelsea 1 (Fernandez 35); Brighton 3 (Hinshelwood 1, Dunk 5, Minteh 86) bt Wolves 0; Fulham 0 lost to Bournemouth 1 (Rayan 53); Sunderland 0 drew with Manchester United 0; Manchester City 3 (Doku 60, Haaland 75, Marmoush 90+2) bt Brentford 0.

LaLiga: Elche 1 (Rodriguez 72) drew with Alaves 1 (Martinez 51-pen); Sevilla 2 (Castrin 82, Adams 90+1) bt Espanyol 1 (Dolan 56); Atletico Madrid 0 lost to Celta Vigo 1 (Iglesias 62).

Bundesliga: RB Leipzig 2 (Schlager 45, Orban 54) bt St. Pauli 1 (Ceesay 86); Stuttgart 3 (Demirovic 5, Mittelstadt 45+7-pen, Undav 58) bt Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Garcia 1); Augsburg 3 (Gregoritsch 24, 72, Fellhauer 42) bt Borussia M'gladbach 1 (Reyna 90+2); Hoffenheim 1 (Toure 26) bt Werder Bremen 0; Wolfsburg 0 lost to Bayern Munich 1 (Olise 56).

Serie A: Cagliari 0 lost to Udinese 2 (Buksa 56, Gueye 90+6); Lazio 0 lost to Inter Milan 3 (Martinez 6, Sucic 39, Mkhitaryan 76).

Man of the moment: Doku celebrates after netting City's opener. AFP

Williams' goal helps BFC score over JFC

ISL

Sports Bureau

Ryan Williams' goal gave Bengaluru FC a 1-0 win over Jamshedpur FC in their ISL fixture at the JRD Tata Sports Complex in Jamshedpur on Saturday.

The win pushed BFC (20 points) to fourth place, one point behind leaders Jamshedpur FC, Mohun Bagan and East Bengal.

For Jamshedpur FC, the loss robbed the side of the chance to take the sole lead on the points table.

BFC and Jamshedpur FC have one match remaining, while Mohun Bagan and East Bengal are better placed with three outings in hand.

BFC head coach Pep Munoz was a relieved man, recording his first win in charge.

Williams broke the deadlock in the 38th minute, when he latched on to a cushioned header from teammate Lalremtluanga Fanai at the edge of the box.

Williams took a quick, low strike, which evaded a crowd of defenders and beat Jamshedpur FC goalkeeper Albino Gomes at the near post.

Pratik Chaudhari held firm for Jamshedpur FC in defence, making two vital blocks. Chaudhari managed to slot one in as well, but the goal was disallowed.

In Margao, FC Goa and Mohun Bagan Super Giant were involved in a fiercely contested 1-1 draw. Jamie MacLaren opened the scoring for the visitors early in the second half, but substitute Ronney Willson Kharbudon struck back to win a crucial point for the Gaurs.

Bagan broke the deadlock in the 55th minute following a defensive lapse. Experienced defender Sandesh Jhingan failed to receive the ball, allowing it to roll into the path of a lurking MacLaren, who calmly slotted the ball past Bob Jackson.

The results: Jamshedpur FC 0 lost to Bengaluru FC 1 (Ryan Williams 38).
At Margao: FC Goa 1 (Kharbudon 67) drew with Mohun Bagan Super Giant 1 (MacLaren 55).

*All prices are ex-showroom India. All variants showcased are top models. Vehicle body colour may differ due to the printing process. All variants are subject to availability. Accessories and features shown in the pictures may not be a part of standard equipment and will differ according to the variant. Available in select cities. ~Advanced Driver Assistance System (ADAS) is not a substitute for human eye and driver vigilance, it is a driver assist system that enhances driving experience and safety. The driver shall remain responsible for safe, vigilant and attentive driving. <The range is as per various test conditions carried at government affiliated agencies. #Performance may vary based on vehicle Battery capacity, environmental conditions, and connected devices. In view of our policy of continuously improving our products, JSW MG Motor India Pvt. Ltd. reserves the right to discontinue any variant or to alter any specifications, features and designs without prior notice and without liability. For any doubts or clarifications, please reach out to your nearest MG dealership to understand the applicable terms and conditions. **Specified range is as per standard MIDC test procedure (Part 1 + Part 2), carried out by certifying authority. Range may vary depending on various driving behaviour, traffic conditions, speed, vehicle loads etc. ^T&C Apply. Offer and benefits are applicable only on selected / select variants. >To know more visit https://www.mgmotor.co.in/vehicles/windsor-ev-electric-car-in-india/terms-and-condition for more details.

Belgaum: MG Belgaum (08037080839) **Bengaluru:** MG Bengaluru Central (08037080876), MG Bengaluru Chord Road (08037080870), MG Bengaluru Electronic City (08037080875), MG Bengaluru JP Nagar (08037080872), MG Bengaluru Kalyan Nagar (08037080874), MG Bengaluru Mysore Road (08037080877), MG Bengaluru Magadi Road (08037080836), MG Bengaluru ORR (08037080871), MG Bengaluru Yelahanka (08037080837) **Bijapur:** MG Bijapur (08037080868) **Davangere:** MG Davangere (08037080843) **Gulbarga:** MG Gulbarga (08037080840) **Hassan:** MG Hassan (08037080853) **Hospet:** MG Hospet (08037080841) **Hubli:** MG Hubli (08037080838) **Mangalore:** MG Mangalore (08037080869) **Mysuru:** MG Mysuru (08037080852) **Shimoga:** MG Shimoga (08037080842) **Udupi:** MG Udupi (08037080873) **Tumkur:** MG Tumkur (08037080878)

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